

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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Do you find it difficult to share your faith with someone? As a pastor, I'm a little embarrassed to admit that sharing my faith is challenging for me. Evangelism is not one of my spiritual gifts plus, I have not had that many positive experiences when I did share my faith. I recall one afternoon years ago the deacons of my church split up into groups of two and we went and knocked on the doors of folks living in the neighborhoods surrounding our church. Our goal was simply to invite folks to church. The experience was not a good one. My partner and I ended up waking up someone from a nap. At another stop, we got in a long, rather heated discussion with one gentlemen who wanted nothing to do with faith. Finally, the worse stop was when we intruded on a lady who was sunbathing in her back yard. When she heard our car door shut, she covered herself with a towel, stood up and started cussing at us to get off her property. That type of evangelism was NOT for me.

My limited attempts at evangelism have not given me much confidence in helping people to share their faith. This was brought into clear focus when I recently received a phone call from Tom Kenney. Tom and his wife Sharon are members of our church and Tom called me to ask if I had any suggestions on how to share his faith with his sister. This is his story in his words:

On February 10th I received an unexpected phone call from my brother-in-law, Gerard, to let me know that my sister Jennie had been admitted to Hartford hospital in Connecticut. Jennie had been diagnosed with a tumor on the left side of her chest and it had attached to her heart. She was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic lung cancer. She also suffered several mini strokes and had to undergo emergency abdominal surgery due to an intestinal blockage caused by blood clots. News like this is always shocking, especially for Jennie who just turned 50 years old.

After hanging up the phone, I had two immediate thoughts, the first was to pray for Jennie, and the second was that I needed to get to Connecticut to be with her as soon as possible. First, I asked God to bless Jennie with the comfort and peace that only He could provide. I also asked for a miracle of healing. My next thought was, "I don't know if Jennie has accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and Lord." It's something we never discussed.

Continued next column

The next day Sharon and I began the eight-hour trip to Connecticut. As we drove, a flood of emotions, memories and shared experiences with Jennie led me to repeatedly ask God to help my sister.

When we arrived at the hospital, Jennie was in pretty good spirits, considering her recent surgery and cancer diagnosis. We met with the doctors and the plan of care was for her to receive chemotherapy every three weeks to extend her life to about a year. She needed to get stronger before chemo could begin, however that plan was thwarted when several blood test results prevented her from beginning the chemo. After several weeks, Jennie's oncologist asked to meet with us again and the news was grim. Jenny had blood clots that were not able to dissolve and they were located near her jugular vein, as well as her subclavian vein near her heart. The doctors were concerned that a blood clot could release and cause her life to end at any moment. The best-case scenario now was for her to go home and receive hospice with a life expectancy of 2 to 4 weeks. This was obviously crushing to Jennie as well as the family.

I had two wishes for my sister at this point. First, that the Lord provide her with as much peace and comfort as possible, and second, but more importantly, that the Lord provide her with the assurance of eternity in heaven. I called Todd to seek his advice and guidance on how to have that conversation with Jennie.



Tom, Jennie and Donna

When I (Todd) received Tom's phone call I shared with him my own limited and often unsuccessful attempts at sharing my faith. We decided to pray and ask the Lord for His guidance and help. After we prayed, I was led to suggest that Tom just be himself and share his faith with his sister out of a place of his love for her. We decided that the best course of action was for him to share with her what the Lord has done in his life and how he now has peace and assurance and then leave the results to the Lord. I was led to encourage Tom by reminding him that God was going to be with him during this conversation and, more than anyone else, it was

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God's desire for Jennie to come to faith in Christ. I felt like the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, gifted these ideas and suggestions for me to pass along to Tom. None of this was my doing.

So, what happened? Tom picks up the story: I called Jennie in the hospital that same evening and asked her if I could share a very personal story with her. She said yes. I shared with her how I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior, and asked her if she knew the Lord, and if she knew for certain where she would be going when she left this life. She said, "I think so." I asked her if she would like to be certain, and she said "yes." I asked her if she would pray with me. The Holy Spirit led me through a series of prayers that included the good news of the Gospel. As the Holy Spirit guided our prayer, Jenny repeated our prayer, and she accepted Jesus Christ into her heart and soul as her personal Lord and Savior. My other sister, Donna was also in the room visiting, and I asked Donna if she was ready to accept Christ. Donna said, "Yes!" And I was blessed by the Holy Spirit to be able to lead Donna through the same prayer, and Donna also accepted the Lord. God is good!

Once again, God had taken an unexpected tragedy and turned it into good. Before I hung up, I told Jennie and Donna that they both gave me the greatest gift they could ever give me in my entire life, and that they also provided the same gift to rest of our family because now we know they have eternal life and they will experience the Glory of God forever, and that we will see them again one day. Praise be to God!

When Tom called me to tell me what happened all I could say was, "Amen! Thank you, Lord." Two people came to Christ because Tom shared the good news of Christ. Here's what I'm learning about how to share my faith: Pray! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit's help. Ask God to help you say the right words in a loving way so that people can feel the love you have for them and the love that God has for them. I think the most effective form of evangelism is when it comes from a place of deep love and care for the person with whom you share your faith. It's also important to remember that the Lord is with us as we share our faith and it is His desire for people to know and love Him, just as you and I know and love Him. I thank God for Tom's willingness to share his faith. He gave his sister the thing she needed most in her final days, hope in Jesus Christ. It is a hope that does not disappoint. May God bless us as we share our hope in Christ with others. May we share our faith in Christ prayerfully, lovingly and authentically. May God bless Tom and Sharon Kenney and their family and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church.

Todd



By Heather Kerns
Preschool Director

Another school year is almost at its end. We have so enjoyed being with the children this year. Every minute has been filled with exciting adventures, lots of fun, and tons of love. We hope that each child has had a wonderful experience here at Bethel Preschool. To those families who would like for their children to continue their journey with our preschool, please remember to turn in your registration forms for your child for the next school year as soon as possible, if you haven't done so already. To those families whose children will be graduating from Bethel, we wish them the best on the next stage of their educational journey; we know they will do incredible!

Our preschool is growing! I am thrilled to announce that we will be opening a second PreK class for the 2023-2024 school year! With that said, we are looking for two teachers to join our Bethel Preschool family. We will need to hire two assistant teachers: one for a Monday-Thursday class and one for a Tuesday-Thursday class. If this is something that you may be interested in, or know someone who would be a great fit, please reach out to me ASAP for more information. I can be reached at (804)794-8590 or bbcweeschool@gmail.com.

We will be holding several special events during the month of May. We will honor our mothers and mother figures on Thursday, May 11th with a Mother's Day Tea Party. On May 18th we will have an event to celebrate our fathers and father figures. And, on our last day of school, Thursday May 25th, we will honor our incredible students. Beginning at 11:00, we will welcome our preschool families to join us in the Bethel Baptist Hope Center for our End of the Year Program and PreK Graduation. We are going to end this school year with an epic month filled with so much love, happiness, and celebration. We can't wait!

Our families and the church are our biggest supporters of the preschool. You have shown the program and the children, families, and staff within this preschool your love and support. We are so thankful for each one of you. You all have made my second year as director at Bethel Preschool so special and I thank all of you for your kind words, prayers, and help. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity with the wonderful students who attend our preschool. It is such an incredible honor. I am so excited to continue my journey as Director at this wonderful, faithful, and loving church.

With much love,
Heather Kerns
Bethel Baptist Preschool Director

Missions News
by Frances Morris

Women’s Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on **Monday, May 1, 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
May 4, at noon



The Men’s Fellowship will meet for lunch on Thursday, May 4, 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
May 25, at noon



You're Invited!

The Ladies Fellowship Luncheon will meet Thursday May 25, 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.

Lilley Sickal Scholarship Fund



The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year. Scholarships are awarded for post secondary education. If you have been accepted into a technical school program, an undergraduate or graduate college program you may be eligible. If you have any questions please contact Faye Cohen at 317-0352. Applications are available through e-mail by contacting Linda, in the church office or on the round table in the People of Hope Center. Please return your completed application to the church office or to Faye by May 14, 2023.

Many Thanks

Sharon and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the prayers, kind words, cards and flowers. The love and comfort demonstrated by the Bethel family is exactly what God taught his people. We feel like the people of Bethel Baptist Church represent Christian leadership, discipleship and fellowship so needed in communities today. May God bless our Bethel family and friends.

With sincerest appreciation, Love
Tom & Sharon Kenney

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent in memory of my mom. The outpouring of love and support has truly touched us as well as the cards and meals that sustained us during this challenging time. I feel so blessed to be a part of the Bethel family!

Love, Dona, Bill, Erin and Malin

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for collecting donations for Richmond Animal League. We are truly grateful for the support. Your gifts will help animals in need receive the hope and help they deserve.

With Love,
The RAL Team



Thank you Todd for a wonderful 10 Years as our Pastor.
Happy Anniversary!

Discovering God's Vision

Bethel Care Team



I want to update you on our process of Discovering God's Vision Together. Our Prayer and Share Triplet groups are well into their 70-day journey to seek God's will for Bethel, while forging new, deeper personal relationships. I hope you have read some of the very interesting and inspired ideas that have been written on the Dream Boards in the People of Hope Center.



Our journey continues **Friday, May 5th at 7 p.m.**, when we will gather to hear how God has spoken through these Prayer and Share Triplets. We're going to do some "Holy Listening" and hear from each Triplet group. I believe this will be an exciting and sacred time for us as we lean in to learn how God has spoken to each group. Everyone is encouraged to attend this Prayer and Share Triplet Celebration. Dessert will be served!

We will then gather again on **Sunday, May 21st from 5 - 7:30 p.m.** We're going to take what we learned from our Prayer and Share Triplets and begin to prioritize the various hopes and dreams. This is where we begin to write the future story of Bethel as God's vision for us begins to emerge. A light dinner will be served.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend both events and we truly hope you will attend. Please sign up for these events on the sign-up sheet on the round table in the People of Hope or call the church office. We want to hear from you, and what the Lord is saying through you, as we Discover God's Vision Together!

Monday Small Group Sharing and Caring

The "Sharing and Caring" group meets each Monday morning at 9 am in the People of Hope Center. For more information, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.



Hello everyone,

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 and I believe this is the time for, like springtime, a time for renewal of purpose, a time for fresh ideas, new beginnings and so I will step down as leader of the Bethel Ministry to our homebound now. I have served for many years in this ministry and have loved every minute of it and found the blessings to me to have far exceeded the blessings shared with our beloved members who were no longer able to attend our services.

I want to thank all the members who have so faithfully shared in this ministry with me. The years have passed so quickly and even some of our workers have passed. This is a very important ministry and I am so hopeful that someone will feel the nudge to pick it up and continue it.

God calls us to do things, do we listen? Our deacons are doing such a wonderful job with their families that I feel assured that they will keep in touch with our homebound and see to their being updated on the workings of the church, they always want to hear about what is happening at Bethel. Thank you for allowing me to represent our beloved Bethel as I visited. The field is full of harvest, who will serve in his name.

Shirley Lewis/team lead

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=UW0rZ2F0OEpl4RUJNVHhIK1pGRmlDQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

<h1>May Birthdays</h1>	
1 Kendyl DeCourcy	21 Earl Boykin
1 Everly Moore	22 Mike Brandon
3 Sam Watson	22 Mac Herndon
3 Nicholas Elam	22 Jarrett Mayberry
3 Colby Robinson	23 Tammy Stump
5 Brenda Stone	24 Jessie Keaton
9 Bruce Bartlam	25 Austin Loving
9 Sherry Curlee	26 Lisa Riley
9 Cindy Spain	26 Emily Lewis
10 Bubba Herndon	28 Alex Johnson
10 Tina Hamilton	29 David Grubbs
12 Dawn Bradbury	29 Penny Henry
13 Brittney Currie	29 Toby Wingfield
13 James McGinnis, Jr.	30 Chase Brownson
14 Jenna Yeager	30 Sandra Hughes
15 John Bruce	31 Lauren Moore
19 Kaitlin Boze	31 Melba Brock
20 Steve Cohen	



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)

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

May 10, 2023 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.

May 26, 2023 — 9 to 11 a.m.

June 14, 2023 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.

June 23, 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 May



May 3 — Sacred Circle—6:15 p.m.

May 10 — Sacred Circle—6:15 p.m.

May 17 — Sacred Circle—6:15 p.m.

May 24 — Sacred Circle—6:15 p.m.

May 31 — Sacred Circle—6:15 p.m.

Church Council Meeting May 8, 7 pm Zoom

A Note from Our Library

A reminder to all – the Bethel Library will be open on the second Sunday of each month except for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Anyone who wants to check out a book should stop by the library.

The library staff had a successful year with the preschool. It is such a joy to watch all the children change and grow. The staff is so glad that we can be a part of this ministry. The library staff will be taking a brief break during July to refresh our minds. We will enjoy some of the nice summer days. There will be people working in the library on Wednesdays in June and August so stop by.

We hope our Bethel family will enjoy their summer with family and friends. Reading is a wonderful way to relax and learn about new wonders in God's world.



Note from Our Parish Nurse



May is such a wonderful month: Mother's Day, graduations, weddings, right after Easter, a time for new beginnings...

Congratulations to our graduates and blessings to your new adventures.

Happy Mother's Day, reminiscing sweet memories or making new ones. Our church has so many compassionate, strong women and spirit moms that I am blessed to know.

With this wonderful May weather, enjoying some physical activity can help improve your memory and reduce anxiety and depression. Exercise can be a stress releaser: try planting a garden, walking with friends, swimming, or something to make you feel good.

Hope you all have a great Memorial Day. Don't forget your sunscreen and to stay hydrated.

"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 NIV

Blessings,
Cindy Luck RN FCN

Mission Opportunity

August 10 – 13, 2023

Deep Roots Clairvaux Farm
Earlville, 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



Coming to Bethel

Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m.

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

Mark your calendars now and
make plans to attend.

Tickets: \$10 at the door.

For more information
call 804-350-1422

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Sharing & Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs) WNUU—10 am	2 Garden Club—9 am Preschool Chapel—9:45 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	3 Sacred Circle—6:15 Zoom or in person Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm	4 Men's Fellowship Lunch—noon at Italian Delight Preschool STEAM—12:30 pm AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	5 Circle of Truth—5 pm POH Vision Mtg—7 pm POH Wedding Rehearsal—5 pm (Old Sanctuary) AV requested	6 Wedding—2:30 pm (Old Sanctuary) AV requested
7 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	8 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs) Church Council Mtg—7 pm ZOOM	9 Boy Scouts—7 pm	10 Charlotte's Party—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle—6:30 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm	11 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	12 Gideon Aux Mtg—9 am	13 Family Reunion—Non Member—2 pm POH
14 Mother's Day	15 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs)	16 Boy Scouts—7 pm	17 Sacred Circle—6:15 Zoom or in person Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm	18 AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	19 Circle of Truth—5 pm Wedding Rehearsal—4 pm (Old Sanctuary) AV Requested	20 Wedding & Reception—1 pm Sanctuary and People of Hope AV Requested
21 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH Vision Meeting—5 pm	22 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs)	23 Boy Scouts—7 pm	24 Sacred Circle—6:15 Zoom or in person Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm	25 Todd on vacation Last Day of Preschool Ladies Fellowship Lunch—noon at Four Seasons AA Meeting—5:30 pm	26 Todd on vacation Charlotte's Party—9 to 11 am	27 Todd on vacation
28 Todd on vacation	29 Memorial Day	30 Todd on vacation Boy Scouts—7 pm	31 Todd on vacation Sacred Circle—6:15 Zoom or in person Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm			
Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	Todd on vacation Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (downstairs)					

Bethel Baptist Church

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Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

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

save the date
**PRAYER & SHARE
TRIPLET CELEBRATION**

May 5, 2023 @ 7 PM

**DESSERT WILL
BE SERVED**



save the date
**BETHEL'S FUTURE
VISION & STORY**

May 21, 2023 @
5-7:30 PM

**DINNER WILL
BE SERVED**