

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 56 No. 1 January 2024

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As we enter into the new year, we have three exciting events in January that align with our vision of Knowing, Growing, and Going in the Love of Christ.

Curtis Salyer House Party - Wednesday, January 3rd, 6-7:30 p.m. Join us for a special evening of food, fellowship, and fun, inspired by the wisdom of Curtis Salyer. Curtis Salyer, one of the "Saints of Bethel," was called home to heaven last year. Before he passed he told me that Bethel needs to have some, "Good, old fashioned, house parties." I asked him what that meant by "House Parties" and he said that we need to get together frequently with no agenda other than getting to know each other better. As Curtis spent his last few months at home he was blessed by many visitors from our church and he got to know these folks on a deep, personal level. He told me, "I've been at Bethel for ten years and I feel like I've wasted eight of them by not getting to know folks." His desire is that we would have genuine connections within our church family. Let's honor Curtis's legacy by fostering a warm and welcoming community. Together, we can continue to build a community where everyone feels known, valued, and connected. We hope you'll make a special effort to attend. If you can attend, please sign up on the signup sheet in the Hope Center or call the church office at 804-794-8590.

Men's Sunday - January 21st, 8:45 a.m. Men's Sunday will kick off with our Men's Brotherhood cooking and serving a delicious breakfast. During our worship service Randy Myers, the Executive Director of GracelInside Prison Ministry, will deliver the message which I believe will give us an inspiring example of what it means to "Go in the Love of Christ." Randy was born into a "prison family." His parents both worked at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland, VA. They rented half of a small farmhouse which was located on prison property. Randy lived the



Randy Myers

Continued next column

first year of his life on the grounds of the state women's prison! Randy grew up attending Fine Creek Baptist Church where my grandfather, Graham Lester, Jr was the minister. Randy later pursued a career in ministry and holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from VCU and a Masters in Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Randy's journey led him to become the Executive Director of GracelInside. GracelInside was formed in 1920. The ministry began with one chaplain in the old Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond and that one chaplain served just over 1,000 inmates. Today, GracelInside has 33 chaplains who serve 24,000 incarcerated men and women across all 42 state correctional facilities. During our worship service Randy will share several inspiring "God Stories," of how the Lord has worked through GracelInside ministry. Please join us for Men's Sunday.

Save the Date! Community Lunch and Learn - Thursday, January 25th, 12-1:30 p.m. It is always important to take care of our mental health, and one way to do that is by learning how to handle stress. Our first "Community Lunch and Learn" event will be held at Bethel, where Dr. Dan Bagby will share his expertise on the subject of "How to Handle Stress Redemptively." Dr. Bagby was the professor of Pastoral Care at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and is uniquely equipped to teach on this topic. The event promises to be an enlightening experience for all participants. Further details about the event will be shared in the coming weeks, but for now, be sure to mark your calendars for January 25th. It's a great opportunity to learn how to manage stress in a positive way and improve your mental health.

Finally, I wish each of you a very happy, healthy, prosperous, and blessed New Year. I pray that our Lord, Savior, and King, Jesus, will lead every step we take and every thought we think in the coming year. May we each experience the love of God and may many people be blessed through us as we live into our vision of Knowing, Growing and Going in the Love of Christ. May God bless you and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church.

Todd

*A Note From Your
Music Director
by Stephanie Blanton*



Thousands of years ago, Advent was the promise of a King to come; one who would usher in hope, joy, peace and love to the World.

So what does Advent mean to us now? 2,000 years after Jesus' birth?

I well remember, as I'm sure many of you do too, when Louis and I were blessed with the news that we were expecting a baby. What did we do? How did we prepare ourselves for this miracle of God? We read everything we could on how to take care of a baby (How many remember the book "What to Expect When You are Expecting?"); we made room for our new baby – we prepared a nursery for this bundle of joy; and we shared the good news with everyone!

Likewise, as we wait for the second coming of Christ, we should read God's Word as a resource for daily living; we should make room for him in our hearts; and we should share the good news of his coming with everyone!

As we begin a new year, may God's light shine in our hearts every day. In good times, in bad times, in all times, may we find hope, peace, love and joy in knowing that we serve a living God who will return to set his people free!

A Note from Our Library

January is a time of new beginnings. Do you want to be more organized? Do you want to declutter your house? Do you want to learn more about history? Do you want to learn to knit? Do you want to redo your budget? The library can help with all of that - come by and check us out!



Wednesday Night Programs in January



January 3 — House Party — 6 p.m. (POH)
January 10 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.
January 17 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.
January 24 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.
January 31 — Sacred Circle — 6 p.m.

Note from Our Parish Nurse



Happy New Year!

As I was preparing the 2024 newsletter and thinking about the usual resolutions, this verse popped up and meant so much to me.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

I love this! We are Christians, we believe, we pray, our light is on... but does it shine outward into our daily lives, our community, our jobs? Do people feel Christ through us? Do I project Christ's love through my actions?

New Years is a good time to prune away a time consuming old habit and then allow more time to let our light shine. I pray that my light shines Christ's love and encourages others to believe and serve the Lord.

May you all have a blessed New Year. Take care of yourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Cindy Luck RN FCN

Hallsborough Tavern Update

At the December Missions and Ministry Celebration, the members of Bethel voted overwhelmingly to enter into a Letter of Intent (LOI) to purchase Hallsborough Tavern, 2.93 acres adjacent to Bethel at 16300 Midlothian Turnpike. As discussed at the meeting there are no current plans for the highest and best use of the property, but many believe it provides the opportunity for future growth and expansion. The purchase price is \$700,000, with \$200,000 to be paid from existing Church funds and \$500,000 to be financed.



Since that meeting the Trustees have communicated to the seller the Church's interest in pursuing a purchase and starting due diligence. An attorney has been engaged to prepare the LOI, and due diligence will include assessing structural and environmental conditions, as well as the historical designation restrictions imposed by Chesterfield County.

The Trustees will provide regular updates on the findings and progress.



By Heather Kerns
Preschool Director

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! I cannot wrap my head around the fact that we are now in 2024 (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 2024-2025 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 start 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. I would also like to remind all that the preschool will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Now that we are into the winter season, there is 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 have not done so recently, be sure to take a walk down our preschool hallways sometime. Our teachers hang student artwork throughout the hallway, and it is sure to put a smile on your face.

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 2024.



Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Susan & I are so honored & grateful to have such a loving church family that prayed for both of us during this challenging time. We appreciate all the phone calls, cards and prayers. Thank you for making me feel like I was not alone. Also thank you very much for the beautiful Christmas Cactus. It was very much appreciated!
God Bless You All!

Love,
Russell & Susan Wright



I would like to express my gratitude and love to everyone at Bethel for the outpouring of love before and after my recent spine surgery on December 4th. The surgery went very well and my recovery has, so far, been amazing. The fruit and snack basket from the church, the cards, phone calls, the love, and most of all the prayers are truly appreciated. God Bless you all.

Bruce Moseley



To Our Caring Family at Bethel,
Thank you for the beautiful basket of goodies, cards, thoughts and prayers during my recent back surgery. We remain truly grateful for each one of you.

Love,
Gilbert (Buddy) and Betty Hicks



Dear Bethel,
Thank you so much for the cards and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Knowing and feeling the love of Christ from you is such a comfort for Cindy and me.

In His Love,
Doug Wight



Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
I want to thank you so much for the generous gift card and beautiful ornament given to me from the church. I would also like to thank everyone for the additional cards and gifts I received. Thank you all so much for thinking of me. I pray that 2024 is a wonderful year for Bethel as a church body and that it is a wonderful year for each individual family at Bethel.

With Love,
Linda Gardner

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU has been moved to the 2nd **Monday**. It will be **January 8, at 10 a.m.** in the People of Hope, since the first Monday is New Year's Day. 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 January 4, 2024

The Men's Fellowship will meet for lunch on Thursday, January 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 January 25

The Ladies Fellowship Luncheon will be the LAST Thursday in the month which is January 25. It will be at noon at the 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 804-739-2936.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

January 10, 2024 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.
January 26, 2024 — 11 a.m. to noon



January Birthdays



1	Erin Chauncey	17	Jake Florence
2	Ryan McGinnis	19	Bob Beasley
4	Leah Ellis	19	Natalie Baker
4	Sonny Carr	20	Karen Smith
5	Caroline Bransford	21	Elliott Moore
5	Cyris Jenkins	21	Rachael Bailey
5	Eli Oatman	23	Alan Hardy
5	Doug Wight	23	Pete Walmsley
6	Jerry Jenkins	24	Becky Turner
6	Michael Smith	26	James Waller
7	Leonard Vaughan	27	Mason Watkins
8	Faye Cohen	27	Michael Roper
10	Jocelyn Vergara	28	Tyler Brock
11	Michael Gerace	29	Manny Sanchez
12	Michaela Goodman	30	Lindsey Brown
12	Amanda McDade		
14	Justin Whitney		
15	Elizabeth Atkinson		
15	Cameron Wynne		
16	Robbie Cordle Gill		
16	John Pulley, Jr.		

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

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)

The Boxcast App



The AV Team has a way to view our complete church services on your Apple TV, Roku, or Smart TV, using the Boxcast app. 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.

Simply 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.

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 right 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=UW0rZ2F0OEp4RUJNVHhK1pGRmldQQT09> Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

Bethel Care Team



Here we are at the beginning of another fresh New Year, 2024, amazing that the old year has flown away so quickly and we take stock of what we accomplished during that year and what lies ahead for us in this new one.

Your Bethel Care Team wishes everyone a wonderful, peaceful year ahead, we especially remember our friends who are unable to come to our church activities and try to see them often in the months during the year. We do special things for special holidays and send cards and make phone calls when the need is there. As you know, we have referred to our members as homebound and we understand that might be misinterpreted, it might be better stated that we show appreciation to those who we are missing as a church family because of not being able to attend services. Whatever the need, we try to see our loved ones on a regular basis.

I want to especially thank our team, Madeline Talley, who goes over and beyond in sending cards for birthdays and holidays and just to say we are thinking of you to our folks. Faye Cohen who phones our folks and checks on them and has conversation with them, and to Jane Ruehrwein, who has stepped up in an amazing way with new ideas and with visiting with me and on her own. She has been an amazing addition to our team and we thank her for joining with us. It's been a great Christmas for our folks this year with those living at home receiving fresh wreaths for their doors from Jane and we thank her for those. And always those "baskets"

We thank the church for the support we receive in this ministry and look forward to making 2024 another successful, blessed year in our service in his name. May God grant our church body with health and happiness in the year ahead.

Shirley Lewis
Team Lead.

Curtis Salyer House Party January 3, 6 p.m.

Join us for a special evening of food, fellowship, and fun, inspired by the wisdom of Curtis Salyer. Curtis Salyer, one of the "Saints of Bethel," was called home to heaven last year. Before he passed he said that Bethel needs to have some, "Good, old fashioned, house parties." So join us on January 3, at 6 p.m. in the People of Hope, as we enjoy good food and fellowship, with no agenda other than getting to know each other better.

Holiday Hours

Below are the church office closings for the upcoming holiday:
New Year's Day—Office will be closed on Monday, January 1.

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.



Meet New Members



Nancy Treanor, joined 12-10-2023



Sue Bailey, joined 10-29-2023



Susan and Tim Reynolds, joined 6-18-2023

Men's Sunday Jan. 21st.

Join us on Sunday, January 21st for Men's Sunday. It will start with breakfast. We welcome all the men within the church to help us prepare the meal. If you would like to help, please join us in the kitchen at 7 am. We will serve promptly at 8:45 am. The Men's Choir will be singing during the worship service, if you would like to join the choir for Men's Sunday, please let Bill Carlson, or Bob Moseley know. Donations for the breakfast are welcome. All proceeds will go to Young Life. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 21st.



Community Lunch & Learn

Our Community Lunch and Learn is Thursday, January 25th, 12-1:30 p.m. It is always important to take care of our mental health, and one way to do that is by learning how to handle stress. Our first "Community Lunch and Learn" event will be held at Bethel, where Dr. Dan Bagby will share his expertise on the subject of "How to Handle Stress Redemptively." Dr. Bagby was the professor of Pastoral Care at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and is uniquely equipped to teach on this topic. The event promises to be an enlightening experience for all participants.



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office closed New Year's Day	2 Garden Club—9 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	3 House Party—6:00 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm	4 Men's Fellowship Lunch—noon at Italian Delight AA Meeting—5:30 pm	5 Circle of Truth—5 pm	6
7 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship (Communion Sunday)—10:30 am—POH	8 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (Downstairs) WMU—10 am POH Deacon Meeting—7 pm	9 Boy Scouts—7 pm	10 Charlotte's Penny—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle—6:00 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm	11 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	12	13
14 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	15 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (Downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)	16 Boy Scouts—7 pm	17 Sacred Circle—6:00 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm	18 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	19 Circle of Truth—5 pm	20
21 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	22 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (Downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)	23 Boy Scouts—7 pm	24 Sacred Circle—6:00 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm	25 Community Lunch & Learn—Noon (POH) Ladies Lunch 12 noon at Four Seasons AA Meeting—5:30 pm	26	27
28 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	29 Friends of the Homeless—8 am Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am (Downstairs) Girl Scouts—6:30 pm (downstairs)	30 Boy Scouts—7 pm	31 Sacred Circle—6:00 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm			

Bethel Baptist Church

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

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

happy
new year!