

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

1100 Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113

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BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 57 No. 5 May 2025

One of the best pieces of news I've heard all year is that Dennis Glazener is a grandfather! His daughter, Sharon Butler, and her husband, Eric, welcomed a beautiful baby girl named Lena into their family through adoption. I recently had the joy of meeting little Lena, and let me tell you, she's a delight. I asked Sharon if she'd share how Lena came into their lives. What she told me is nothing short of a God story, and I'm excited for you to hear it too.



Sharon and Eric

Sharon and Eric's adoption journey kicked off in late 2019, but like so many things, it hit a pause when COVID arrived. "By early 2022, we were emerging from the 'fog' of the pandemic," Sharon shared, "and realizing we'd lost nearly two years in our adoption process." Ready to move forward, they teamed up with Amy, an adoption consultant and

adoptive mom herself, who guided them to an agency in Arizona in September 2024. There, a counselor named Jackie had been praying for just the right parents. When she spotted Eric's signature red mohawk, she felt a spark. "She thought it could be a connector," Sharon said with a smile, "and that we'd be great parents."

Not long after, an expectant mom—sporting bright red hair just like Eric's—chose to place her soon-to-be-born daughter for adoption. Jackie had a hunch Sharon and Eric were the perfect match, and in October, the couple flew to Arizona to meet her. "We were all a little nervous at first," Sharon admitted, "but God blessed us with easy conversation and a surprising comfort with each other." They clicked over their love for nature, animals, and even the name Lena—a family name meaning "ray of light," which struck a chord with the expectant mom who was often called the same by her friends.

Lena's arrival came sooner than expected when her birth mom faced pre-eclampsia. "We got the call late on a Friday night," Sharon recalled, "and hopped on a 5:45 AM flight from North Carolina to Arizona." They raced to the hospital, where Sharon waited anxiously for Lena's delivery. "Moments later, two doctors and two nurses rolled out with Lena in a bassinet and said, 'Congrats, Mom!' I was stunned—it suddenly felt so real," she shared. Weighing in at a tiny but mighty 5 pounds, 5 ounces, Lena was calmed by Sharon's touch—a moment Sharon calls

Adoption wasn't without its hurdles, from emotional vulnerability to financial risks and logistical challenges like interstate clearance. Yet, Sharon sees God's hand in every step. "God's been in the details in ways we couldn't have imagined," she said. "We truly believe this birth mom was meant to be part of our story, and Lena was meant to be our daughter." From coincidences—like the birth mom's late grandmother sharing Sharon's name—to the grace-filled connection they've built with Lena's birth family, it's a bond that feels divinely ordained.

At first, the birth mom wasn't sure about an open adoption, but after Lena's birth, she warmed to the idea of staying connected. "We keep in touch through emails with her and her mother, sending monthly photo and video updates," Sharon said, adding that they're planning visits every other year. This openness stems from their heartfelt belief that "it's in Lena's best interest to know her family of origin," a conviction they credit to God softening their hearts.

God's timing worked wonders in practical ways too. Eric's extended paternity leave and Sharon's maternity leave lined up beautifully, giving them nearly four months to bond with Lena. "We were able to spend three weeks in Arizona and have that precious time together as a new family, free from distractions," Sharon said with gratitude.

Looking back, Sharon sees God's love reflected in their story. "We welcomed Lena into our family with the same delight God has when He welcomes us as His children through Jesus, like it says in Galatians 1," she said. "Two years ago, I wouldn't have believed this is where we'd be, but God worked it all out in the most spectacular way." And the greatest gift of all? "We delight so much in Lena," Sharon beamed. "We knew parenthood would be powerful, but we underestimated how deeply we'd love her—and her birth family too. We still marvel at how God showed up in every part of this journey."

Meeting Lena, their little ray of light, was a treat for me, and soon you'll get the chance too! Sharon and Eric will share their story with our congregation on Sunday, May 18. And here's a bonus: after church, we're hosting a BBQ lunch with Pitmasters David and Jonathan Grubbs firing up the grill. More details are coming, but mark your calendars for May 18. Join us as we worship, celebrate, and give thanks for all God's doing in the Glazener/Butler family and our Bethel Church family. May God bless Dennis, Sharon, Eric, and especially little Lena—and may He bless Bethel Baptist Church too! Amen.

Todd



Preschool News

Another school year is almost at its end. We have so enjoyed being with the children this year. Every day 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!

We will be holding several special events during the month of May. We will honor our mothers and mother figures on Thursday, May 8 with a Mother's Day Tea Party. On Thursday, May 15 we will have an event to celebrate our fathers and father figures. And, on our last day of school, Thursday, May 22, we will honor our incredible students. Beginning at 11:00, we will welcome our preschool families to join us in the Bethel Baptist People of 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 fourth 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

Men's Fellowship Lunch is May 1

The Men's Fellowship Lunch for May is **Thursday, May 1, at noon at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan**. If you have any questions please contact Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886. All men are welcome.

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council Meeting is Monday, May 12 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

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A Note from Our Parish Nurse

May 10, 2025 is "Trust Your instincts" Day. Remember to trust your inner voice, gut feelings, and instincts.

By taking care of your thoughts and mind, your instincts can flourish. Go on a nature walk, listen to the sounds, and observe the beautiful sights, giving your mind time to relax. Try meditation and reflection to capture your inner thoughts and calm your mind. Journaling your thoughts can also be very therapeutic.

All of these suggestions encourage you to listen to your inner voice and follow your instincts. These suggestions can improve your mental health and self confidence and can also be useful in reflecting your faith, studying of the Bible and making powerful decisions. Seek God's wisdom daily!

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/trust-your-intuition-day/>

Happy Mother's Day. We all have a unique calling and acts of service. How fortunate we are to have so many loving, powerful women and men in our lives, our communities and church.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – **Galatians 6:9**

Blessings,
Cindy Luck RNFCN

Ladies Fellowship Lunch

The Ladies Fellowship Lunch will be on **Thursday, May 22 at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian**. All women are invited. If you would like more information about the Ladies Fellowship Lunch, or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can reserve a place for you.

Sharing and Caring

The "Sharing and Caring" group meets each **Monday morning at 10 am** (note new time) in the People of Hope Center. For more information, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

June Concert

The Pine Ridge Boys Quartet is headed to Bethel Baptist Church! Join us on **Saturday, June 21 at 6:00 pm** in the People of Hope Center for a wonderful night of gospel music.

June Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Outreach Newsletter is **May 9**. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be dropped off in the church office or emailed to karnold@bbc1817.org before **May 9**. Thank you for your help!

May Birthdays

1 - Kendyl DeCourcy	20 - Steve Cohen
3 - Nicholas Elam	21 - Earl Boykin
4 - Susan Reynolds	22 - Mike Brandon
4- Shirley Lewis	22 - Mac Herndon
5 - Brenda Stone	22 - Jarrett Mayberry
7 - Randy Hill	23 - Tammy Stump
9 - Bruce Bartlam	24 - Jessie Keaton
9 - Cindy Spain	25 - Austin Loving
9 - Sherry Curlee	26 - Lisa Riley
10 - Bubba Herndon	26 - Emily Lewis
10 - Tina Hamilton	28 - Alex Johnson
11 - Hunter Herndon	29 - David Grubbs
12 -Dawn Bradbury	29 - Toby Wigfield
13 - Brittney Currie	29 - Penny Henry
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

Lilley Sickal Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the Lilley Sickal Scholarship Fund for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. The deadline to submit an application is **May 26, 2025**.

Scholarships are awarded for post-secondary education. If you have been accepted into a technical school program or an undergraduate or graduate college program, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance through Bethel's church scholarship fund. If you have questions, please contact Katie Toler at 804-248-1909 by text message. Applications are available by email by contacting Kim in the church office and on the round table in the People of Hope Center. Please return completed applications to the church office by May 26, 2025. Many blessings of encouragement and success to all our students on their academic journey!

New Email Addresses at Bethel

We are in the process of upgrading all of the church email addresses. This will provide a more reliable flow of the church's incoming and outgoing email. Please change your address book to reflect the following updates:

Todd Bradbury, Pastor: tbradbury@bbc1817.org
 Kim Arnold, Administrative Assistant: karnold@bbc1817.org
 Church Office (this forwards to Kim): office@bbc1817.org
 Stephanie Blanton, Worship Leader: sblanton@bbc1817.org
 Mary Florence, Youth & Children's Director: mflorence@bbc1817.org
 Heather Kerns, Preschool Director: hkerns@bbc1817.org
 Bruce Moseley, Technical Support: webmaster@bbc1817.org

Giving News

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to Bethel's two recent giving campaigns.

The Blessing Warriors received approximately \$6,000 from Bethel toward their new vehicle. The Benevolent Fund, supporting the Crestwood family, received over \$10,000. Benevolent funds not used for the Crestwood family will be available to help others in need. We thank God for the generous spirits at Bethel!

Charlotte's Pantry

May Pantry Schedule

- Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 5 to 6:30 pm
- Friday, May 23, 2025, 9 to 11 am

Charlotte's Pantry had great helpers recently.
Thank you for your help boys!



Wednesday Night's in May

Wednesday, May 7 - Sacred Circle, 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, May 14 - Sacred Circle, 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, May 21 - Sacred Circle, 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, May 28 - Sacred Circle, 6 pm, People of Hope Center

BBQ - May 18

Bethel is hosting a BBQ lunch with Pitmasters David and Jonathan Grubbs grilling up chicken and Boston butt meat immediately following Worship Service on **May 18**. Please plan to bring a picnic type side dish or dessert to share for this old fashioned, on the grounds, type meal. You don't want to miss it!

Thank You!

I want to thank you, Bethel, for the lovely basket of goodies. Everything I have tried is really good. Also thank you for the calls, texts and prayers. I miss coming to church and hopefully, in the future, we will be able to come again.

Jim Brock

Dear Friends of Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you all so much for loving our Miss Peggy Heath. These blankets are made with lots of love. Hope you can use them.

A Friend

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy for Harold Wigfield.

Your prayers, calls, cards and flowers were a blessing to our family and a thoughtful tribute to his life.

Toby Wigfield

Curt & Debbie Nellis

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Thank you for all the many phone calls, cards, and beautiful and delicious gift basket sent as encouragement for me after my recent fall.

I am getting stronger every day and hope to be back in fellowship with you all soon!

Many thanks,
Romy Merchant

Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you for supporting the Free Clinic of Powhatan by providing dinner on 3/3/25. The food was so yummy and we enjoyed the baked ziti, Italian bread, salad and cookies.

We are very grateful to your members for providing us dinner.

Thanks,
The Free Clinic of Powhatan

Dear Bethel,

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and the many prayers I received since my fall. My memory is still not 100% clear and I remember nothing of that day, but I never forget the love I feel from my church family. Thank you for being there for me.

Becky Turner

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Bill and I would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards, texts, emails, and meals the past few weeks as we mourned the loss of my father, James Trent. We are certainly blessed to have a wonderful church family who generously share their love everyday.

Blessings to you all,
Dona Carlson

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Thank You!

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for all your sweet birthday wish cards for my mom, who turned 95 on April 4.

She has dementia and was confused the first couple of days when some cards arrived until I told her they were from my friends at church.

One day she called to tell me she received 12 cards from my friends in Virginia. It touched me so much how excited she was. After we hung up, she called me again several times in one day to ask me if I could put a thank you note in our church bulletin. These cards truly warmed my mom's heart.

So, thank you all from the bottom of heart and my mom's heart, too. You're all so precious to me. I'm so blessed to be a part of such a loving Bethel family.

Thank you again from my mom AND from me. The cards truly made mom happy.

Debbie Mead

PreK Graduation!

Thank you, PreK students, for bringing smiles to the faces of Bethel Baptist Church staff and members this past year. As you finish your time at Bethel, we look ahead with you to kindergarten and beyond and wish you the best as you grow and learn and follow your dreams.

Bethel, please pray for these children
as they transition to kindergarten.



Congratulations and lots of love to:
Audrey, Carson, Evelyn, Genevieve,
Hazel, James, Kennedy, Knox,
Liam B., Liam M., Lily Anne,
Oliver, Owen, Reagan,
Victor and Wilkes

Ministry & Missions Meeting


Mark your calendar and plan to join us on **Wednesday, June 4 at 7:00 pm** in the People of Hope Center and via Zoom for the Quarterly Ministry & Missions Meeting.

Please turn in all reports for The Book of Reports by **Monday, May 12**. The Book of Reports will be available later this month electronically and in the paper version.

Be Prayerful

- For our Pastor and his family
- For the Holy Spirit to lead our services
- For the search for a Family Life Minister
- For our JIGSAW Children's program and the leader
- For our youth leader and youth group
- For our Pantry teams. Please be in prayer for all the people and families that are blessed through this ministry.
- For our backpack teams
- For our nursery workers

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Communion Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday School, 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC -Welcome Stockton Memorial Church! ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 10 am, Endeavors Room ● WMU, 10 am, POHC Guest Speaker: Elaine Harvey ● Deacons Meeting, 5 pm, POHC 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garden Club, 10 am, POHC ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preschool Mother's Day Tea, 11:30am, POHC ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Providers Room ● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 pm 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DEADLINE for Articles for the June Outreach Newsletter 	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Mother's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday School, 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 10 am, Endeavors Room ● Church Council Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom ● DEADLINE for Ministry & Missions Book of Reports Submissions 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC ● Building & Grounds Meeting, 6:30 pm, Salt & Light Room 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charlotte's Parntry, 5 to 6:30 pm ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preschool Father's Day Event, 11:30 am, POHC ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Providers Room ● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 pm 	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Armed Forces Day We thank, honor and recognize the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, both active and retired.</p>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday School, 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Church BBQ Lunch, After Worship Service ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 10 am, Endeavors Room 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last Day of Preschool! Thank You Teachers! Happy Summer to All! ● End of Year Program and Prek Graduation, 11 am, POHC ● Ladies Fellowship Lunch, Noon at Four Seasons Restaurant ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Providers Room 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charlotte's Parntry, 9 to 11 am 	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Todd Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sunday School, 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs ● DEADLINE to turn in Lilley Sickal Scholarship Application 	<p>26</p> <p>Todd Out</p> <p><i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i></p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Todd Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC 	<p>28</p> <p>Todd Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm 	<p>29</p> <p>Todd Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Providers Room 	<p>30</p> <p>Todd Out</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Todd Out</p>

Bethel Baptist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

