

# THE OUTREACH

**A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.**  
1100 Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113  
office@bbc1817.org | www.bbc1817.org  
804-794-8590

**Vol. 57 No. 7 July 2025**



I recently rekindled my interest in Civil War history, almost by accident. In early March, Karen and I were looking for something to do on a Saturday, so we decided to hike at Appomattox. That one outing reignited my fascination with the Civil War, and since then we've visited Gettysburg, Antietam, and Sailor's Creek. Standing on those hallowed grounds, imagining the events that unfolded there, is profoundly moving. I've also been captivated by the stories of the soldiers who fought. One story, in particular, gripped me at Appomattox. Toward the end of our hike, Karen and I came across a small



cemetery with a plaque that tells the story of a man named Jesse H. Hutchins, who is buried there. Jesse joined the Confederate army five days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter and served for 1,454 days, surviving four years of

carnage. Tragically, on April 8, 1865, less than 24 hours before the surrender, Private Hutchins was killed in a skirmish with Union cavalry. How heartbreaking to lose his life just hours before the war's end! As I reflect on stories like these and as we approach July 4th, words like sacrifice and freedom come to mind. The men and women of our armed forces paid an immense price to secure our freedom, giving their lives for a cause greater than themselves.

As I think about this great gift of freedom, I'm led to ask: Are we being good stewards of this gift? To what cause are we committed? Ephesians 5:15-16A encourages us to, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity." It seems to me that the wisest way to be a good steward of our freedom is to serve Christ. The Apostle Paul captures this in Galatians 5:13, saying, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." This verse reminds us that our freedom is not for selfish indulgence, but for advancing God's kingdom. Or, as we've been saying at Bethel for some time now, our vision is "Knowing, Growing, and Going in the Love of Christ."

Let me share three practical ways we can live intentionally to help fulfill this mission this month.

First, consider joining our "Discipling Another Program." Currently, 18 people have completed the 10-week program, and three more have just started! Our goal is to have 27 graduates this year, and we're well on our way. The material is practical, designed not only for new believers but also for "renewed believers." After completing the study, participants covenant to guide another person through the material within a year and continue discipling at least one person annually. This program fosters exponential growth, helping us build a true discipling culture as we obey Christ's command to "go and make disciples." If you'd like to be discipled, please let me know, and I'll connect you with one of our graduates. I believe you'll be blessed!

Second, get involved with our Community Engagement Team's effort to stock Crestwood Elementary's Care Closet. We're grateful for our longstanding partnership with Crestwood Elementary, and they've asked for our help to prepare their Care Closet for the upcoming school year. Through August 1, we're collecting the following items:

- 10 lunchboxes
- 1,000 pre-sharpened pencils
- 100 pairs of scissors
- 100 water bottles

Let's meet those goals and bless our good friends at Crestwood!

Finally, Jesus regularly practiced the spiritual disciplines of community and hospitality. Let's embrace these by gathering for one of our "Curtis Salyer" house parties on Wednesday, July 9. Before Curtis passed away he told me that Bethel needs to have some, "Good, old fashioned, house parties." I asked him what he meant by "House Parties" and he said we need to get together frequently with no agenda other than getting to know each other better. We'll do that on July 9 and, in keeping with the July 4th theme, we'll grill some hot dogs and hamburgers! We're asking everyone to bring their favorite summer side dish! We'll serve dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by a time of fellowship and fun.

**Todd**

# Thank You!

Cindy and I would like to thank the church so much for the many kind cards and especially the prayers during this difficult time of my mother's passing. It's a comfort for us to have such a loving church family.

In His Love,  
Doug Wight

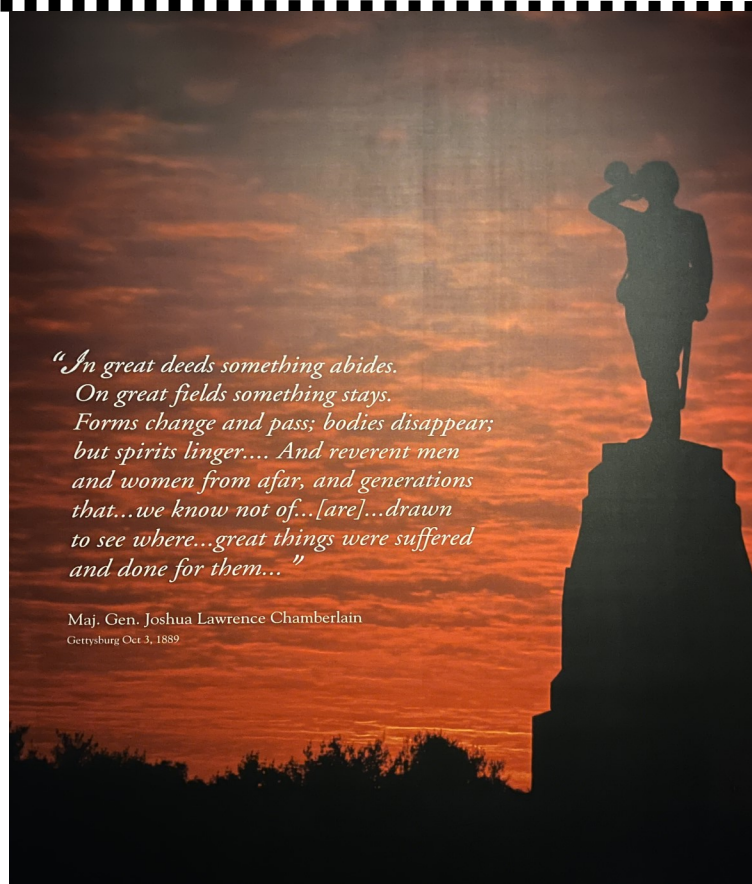
Dear Bethel Family,  
I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the cards, food and prayers after my fall last month. Having such wonderful people around me makes a big difference in my life.

Shirley Lewis

Dear Bethel Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for the tasty dinner you provided us on May 5. We enjoyed the lasagna, salad, rolls and pound cake. We are thankful for your support.

Thank you,  
The Free Clinic of Powhatan



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## Sharing & Caring Time Change



The Sharing & Caring group has decided to return to the 9:00 AM time slot. Please feel free to join the group in the Endeavors room at 9:00 AM every Monday.

## Midweek Ministries: July Break & August Relaunch!

As July brings the warmth of summer, it's also a time for rest and renewal. Both our Sacred Circle and Choir Practice will pause their Wednesday evening gatherings throughout July.

### Mark Your Calendars: We're Back on Wednesday, August 13!

We're excited to resume with refreshed schedules:

- **Choir Practice:** Begins at 5:30 PM
- **Sacred Circle:** Begins at 6:30 PM



Whether you're lifting your voice in song or seeking spiritual connection, we look forward to welcoming you back. Enjoy the summer break, and see you in August!

## Happy 4th of July!

### -The Liberty Bell's Annual Tapping

Each Independence Day, the Liberty Bell is gently tapped 13 times to honor the original 13 colonies, symbolizing unity and the enduring spirit of freedom.

### -The Oldest 4th of July Parade

Bristol, Rhode Island, hosts the nation's oldest continuous Independence Day celebration, dating back to 1785. Founded by Rev. Henry Wight, a Revolutionary War veteran, the parade reflects the intertwining of faith and patriotism.

### -The Designer of the 50-Star Flag Lived in Lancaster, Ohio

In 1958, a history teacher assigned a class assignment to redesign the national flag as both Alaska and Hawaii neared statehood. Robert G. Heft, who was 16 at the time, designed a new flag using the old 48-star flag and \$2.87 worth of blue cloth and white iron-on material. His design earned him a B-minus to which he challenged by sending it to Washington D.C. to be considered by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. According to his obituary, Heft was one of thousands to submit a flag design but he was the only person who actually stitched together a flag and shipped it to D.C. His grade was changed to an A when his flag was selected. It became the official flag in 1960.

## Upcoming Fellowship Lunches

The Men's Fellowship Lunch for July is **Thursday, July 3, 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.

- The Ladies Fellowship Lunch will be on **Thursday, July 31 at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian**. All women are invited. If you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can reserve a place for you.



July 1— Ben Doughtie	July 17— Dona Carlson
July 2— Janice Jones	July 18 — Elaine Bradley
July 2 — Jennifer McLeod	July 19 — Rob Camden
July 3 — Debby Stagg	July 19 — Kevin Gilbert
July 3 — Cathy Marshall	July 20 — Glenna Chenault
July 3 — Ciara Moore	July 21 — Ricky Evans
July 3 — Ora Smith	July 21 — Everett Maine
July 4 — Margaret Gillis	July 22 — David Lint
July 5 — Donna Barker	July 24 — Wendy McClellan
July 7 —Marie Justis	July 26 — Stacey Elam
July 9 — Ruby Waller	July 26 — Ann Powell
July 13 — Cody Loving	July 26 — Bill Florence
July 13 — Trevor Moseley	July 27— Waylon Mead
July 14 — Carolyn DeNoon	July 27— Austin Moseley
July 14 — Ken Martin	July 29 — Steve Lewis
July 16 — Mike Rider	July 31 — Cindy Luck
July 16 — Logan DeShetler	July 31 — Megan Balaga Luck
July 17 — Karl Schmitz	July 31 — Thomas Maine

# Charlotte's Pantry

## July Pantry Schedule

- Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 5 to 6:30 pm
- Friday, July 25, 2025, 9 to 11 am

## How to Help

Charlotte's Pantry is currently accepting donations of the following items:

- Non-Perishable, Unexpired Food Items
- Toiletries such as Hand Lotion, Shampoo and Tooth Paste

## A Note from Our Parish Nurse

Summertime!

Time to enjoy the beautiful weather, vacations and holidays.

Remember to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and don't over do it on these hot summer days. And while you are at it, check out some farmers markets for fresh produce, dust off the grill and enjoy the Fourth of July fireworks.

This is also the perfect time to walk the neighborhood, meet your neighbors and share extra veggies from your garden.

### Proverbs 16:24

**24 "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." (KJV)**

Blessings and have a happy, healthy and safe 4th of July.  
Cindy Luck RN FCN

## Bethel Email Addresses

Todd Bradbury, Pastor: [tbradbury@bbc1817.org](mailto:tbradbury@bbc1817.org)  
 Jeremy Meads, Family Life Minister: [jmeads@bbc1817.org](mailto:jmeads@bbc1817.org)  
 Kim Arnold, Administrative Assistant: [karnold@bbc1817.org](mailto:karnold@bbc1817.org)  
 Church Office (Forwards to Kim): [office@bbc1817.org](mailto:office@bbc1817.org)  
 Stephanie Blanton, Worship Leader: [sblanton@bbc1817.org](mailto:sblanton@bbc1817.org)  
 Heather Kerns, Preschool Director: [hkerns@bbc1817.org](mailto:hkerns@bbc1817.org)  
 Bruce Moseley, Technical Support: [webmaster@bbc1817.org](mailto:webmaster@bbc1817.org)

## August Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August Newsletter is **July 10**. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be dropped off in the church office or emailed to [karnold@bbc1817.org](mailto:karnold@bbc1817.org) before **July 10**. Thank you for your help!

## Service Opportunity Survey

God has called each of us to ministry; identifying yours and answering God's call will help us fulfill our mission as a community in Christ. We welcome any current church member to serve in any category and non-church members to serve on any team.

To complete the survey, please check the areas of interest. A link to the survey form was sent out in the 6/24/2025 Weekly Update. Forms may also be picked up in the church office, emailed to you by contacting [karnold@bbc1817.org](mailto:karnold@bbc1817.org) or retrieved from the round table in the People of Hope Center.

Please return your completed form to the church office, by email to [office@bbc1817.org](mailto:office@bbc1817.org) or place it on the round table in the People of Hope Center. Please return completed forms by **Sunday, July 20**.



# Summer Picnic - Wednesday, July 9

Join us for a fun and relaxing evening at our **Summer Picnic on Wednesday, July 9 at 6:00 PM!** We'll be firing up grills outside with hot dogs and hamburgers as the main course, while fellowship and food will be enjoyed in the comfort of the air-conditioned **People of Hope Center**.

Please bring your favorite summer side dish to share, and be sure to sign up on the sheet located on the round table in the People of Hope Center so we know you're coming. We look forward to a great evening of food, friendship, and summer fun!



## Upcoming Youth Group Events

Get ready to jump into fun this summer! The Youth Group has big things planned—watch the Weekly Update and future newsletters for the latest details.

**July 2** - Youth Group Game Night at Church, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**July 23** - Youth Group Water Game Night at Church, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

## Crestwood Elementary School

Please remember to drop off lunchboxes, sharpened pencils, scissors and water bottles in the collection bin in the People of Hope Center. You are also welcome to contribute financially towards purchases.

The Community Engagement Team thanks you for your generosity and support!

For questions, please contact Sissy Dance at 804-837-5899 or [ddance9149@gmail.com](mailto:ddance9149@gmail.com).



## Deacon Meeting

The next Deacon meeting will be held on **Monday, July 28, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the People of Hope Center.

# Care Team News

The Care Team at Bethel has been very busy the first half of 2025! Many thanks to everyone who participated in one or more of the projects:

- Six weeks of meal delivery to a homebound parishioner.
- Easter deliveries of chocolates and plants.
- Mother's Day gift delivery.

If you'd like to be involved with the Care Team, please contact Jane Ruehrwein for more information.

## Welcome New Members!

We extend our heartfelt welcome to the newest members of the Bethel Baptist Church family! Your presence among us is a cherished blessing, and we are thrilled you've chosen to join Bethel. Our church is more than just a place of worship; it's a wonderful community where friendships are formed, lives are transformed, and God's love is shared abundantly.



Kathy Wingfield




Mark and Kathy Lambert

## Be Prayerful

- For our Pastor and his family
- For the Holy Spirit to lead our services
- For our new Family Life Minister and his family
- For our JIGSAW Children's program and the leader
- For our 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

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Game Night, 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Men's Fellowship Lunch, Noon at Italian Delight Restaurant</li> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li> <li>● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 PM</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 AM</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 AM, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 PM, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 AM, Downstairs</li> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 AM, POHC</li> <li>● WMU, 10 AM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Charlotte's Parntly, 5 to 6:30 PM</li> <li>● Summer Picnic, 6 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li> <li>● DEADLINE for Articles for the August Newsletter</li> </ul>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 AM</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 AM, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 PM, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 AM, Downstairs</li> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 AM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li> <li>● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 PM</li> </ul>	<b>18</b> <b>Jeremy Out</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 AM</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 AM, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 PM Downstairs</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 AM, Downstairs</li> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 AM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>23</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Water Game Night, 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <b>Summer Camp</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li> </ul>	<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Charlotte's Parntly, 9 to 11 AM</li> </ul>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 AM</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 AM, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 PM, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 AM, Downstairs</li> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 AM, POHC</li> <li>● Deacon Meeting, 5 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 PM, POHC</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ladies Fellowship Lunch, Noon at Four Seasons Restaurant</li> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li> </ul>		

## **Bethel Baptist Church**

1100 Huguenot Springs Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113

Change Service Requested

### **WORSHIP TIMES**

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

