

# KNOW GROW GO



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



BETHEL  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol 57 No. 8 August 2025

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### Thoughts from Todd

Karen and I were sitting under our shade tree the other day, enjoying a fine summer afternoon and watching the sprinkler water our garden. The steady sound of water hitting those lush, green leaves got me thinking about a book I read recently, *Imagine the God of Heaven* by John Burke. It dives into Near-Death Experiences (NDEs), and one story stuck with me. A woman who glimpsed heaven said the Kingdom of God is all about growth. She described how everything there was alive, even blades of grass praised God! Wow! That idea of growth stuck with me, and the more I've thought about it, the more I see it's true. God calls us to keep growing in our knowledge, understanding, and love for Him. Scripture backs this up. 2 Peter 3:18 says, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." Colossians 1:10 puts it this way: "So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." These verses bring to mind two questions: How do we grow in the Lord? And how can we at Bethel help each other grow to be more like Christ?

I think growing spiritually is a lot like tending a garden. Every spring, I till the garden, we prepare the soil, then we plant and water the seeds, and then there are the weeds! Those awful, stubborn weeds. It's hard work, but the reward? Is there anything better than a tomato and mayo sandwich with a tomato plucked fresh from the vine?! That sandwich doesn't just happen, it takes effort. Growing in the Lord is the same. It means picking up your Bible to read and study, carving out time to pray, and then protecting that sacred time like it's a treasure. Growth also comes from serving others and using the gifts God's given you. It's about living a life of worship—through Bible study, Sunday School or small groups, prayer, serving, and gathering for worship each week.



Now, a garden doesn't grow on its own—God makes the seeds sprout. Same with our faith. We put in the work, but the Holy Spirit brings the transformation. And just like corn stalks lean on each other to stand tall, we grow best in community. At Bethel, we're a family, we share our joy, struggles, pain, and victories. Sometimes, growth means letting God prune us, like Jesus says in John 15:2, where He trims branches to bear more fruit. Tough times can shape us into who God wants us to be.

This August, we've got some great ways to help you grow in the Lord. On August 1, we're heading to the Museum of the Bible for a day of learning and fellowship. Please call the church office to join this adventure. Then, August 5th and 7th, we need volunteers for Vacation Bible School. On Wednesday, August 6, we're hosting a Bethel Block Party—a fun way to share God's love. If you can help with VBS, please let Jeremy know. On Wednesday, August 13, we'll resume Choir Practice and Sacred Circle with Choir Practice at 5:30 PM and Sacred Circle Bible Study at 6:30 PM. We're trying a new schedule this fall and we hope it will accommodate more people. Our Choir will start working on our Christmas Cantata, so come "sing for a season" and give it a try!

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### Thoughts From Todd, Continued from Page 1

Sacred Circle is always a fun time of digging into Scripture together—I'd love for you to join us. Finally, on Sunday, August 24, we're having Gideon Sunday, one of my favorite Sundays. You'll hear from Nancy Rogers, who, with her husband, runs a film and video company spreading the gospel. Her testimony is sure to inspire.

Here's a practical idea: grab a notebook and jot down one thing each day that draws you closer to God—a verse that hits home, a prayer answered, or a moment you served or prayed for someone. Then, commit to joining at least one Bethel event this month. By August's end, those small steps will add up and I bet you'll be able to look back and say, "I've grown in my love for the Lord this month." And friends, that's way better than any tomato sandwich! May God bless you and Bethel Baptist Church as we live out our vision of Knowing, Growing, and Going in the Love of Christ.



### A Word from Jeremy

One of my favorite songs is a relatively new folk song titled "Tulsa's Last Magician" by Willi Carlisle. The song works through a story of someone who buys his first deck of cards as a young boy, and as he gets older, attempts to make a living doing magic. He travels the country, trying to find his place everywhere he goes, and finds failure in each destination. Eventually, he gives up on magic, finds a "normal" job like everyone else, and retires after forty years of working. Near the end of the song, there is a lyric that sticks out to me. "Now his great escaping act is untying both of his shoes, and most days he's in his easy chair yelling at the news."

While I am working through figuring out what this new role looks like, this song sticks out as the journey of someone's life, and at each step of our life we are in need of something different. Each of us is a unique person, with our individual unique gifts from God. Despite our ages, each of us is a beloved Child of God. That fact gives me so much relief while navigating working with so many different age groups.

Our family is so blessed to be at Bethel, and we have felt so much love since we arrived! We look forward to continuing to get to know all of you. I have been appreciative of you who have invited me to your home to visit. I appreciate our Youth families showing up and being so receptive! It has been so wonderful to spend time with the Children in JIGSAW and on the steps each week for our Time for Young Disciples.

I hope you'll join us for Vacation Bible School in August! August 5 and 7 will be Vacation Bible School, and on Wednesday, the 6th we'll join with our community for a Bethel Block Party with food, games, and some time for us to continue to get to know each other better!



### Sharing and Caring

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



## Men's Fellowship Lunch is August 7

The next Men's Fellowship Lunch will be **Thursday, August 7, 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.



## September Newsletter Deadline is August 11

The deadline for the September Newsletter is **August 11**. 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 August 11. Thank you for your help!



## Ladies Fellowship Lunch

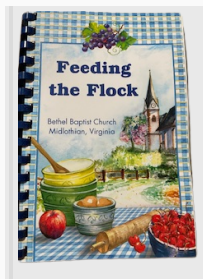
The August Ladies Fellowship Lunch will be on **Thursday, August 28** at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian. All women are invited. If you would like more information about the Ladies Fellowship Lunch, or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can reserve a place for you.



## WMU

Bethel's WMU group meets the first Monday of every month at 10:00 AM in the People of Hope Center. Please join us!

For questions, please contact Janet Goodman at [goodman42@aol.com](mailto:goodman42@aol.com).



## Bethel Cookbooks

The Bethel Cookbook sold out before Christmas last year! Thank you for your support!

We would like to see if there is interest in purchasing more cookbooks for this coming holiday season. If you are interested in purchasing cookbooks, please contact Susan Reynolds by email at [socccergal01@gmail.com](mailto:socccergal01@gmail.com) or by text at 804-833-3901. They make great gifts as well as a wonderful addition to your own cookbook collection!



## Life Line Screening

Bethel will host Life Line Screening on **Friday, October 10**. Visit <https://www.lifelinescreening.com/> for more information.

## August Birthdays



August 2—Chesney Florence	August 14—Beth Saxton
August 2—Nicholas Peck	August 17—Anne Brandon
August 3—Diana Schmitz	August 18—Romy Merchant
August 3—Cindy Florence	August 21—Todd Bradbury
August 4—Pat DeNunzio	August 21—Susan Wright
August 7—Brenda Kagels	August 22—Travis Hale
August 8—Robert Ruehrwein	August 22—Luke McNeel
August 8—Brent Williamson	August 24—Thom Kagels
August 9—Bud Hines	August 25—Sam Wight
August 10—Sharon Kenney	August 29—Diane Roper
August 10—Jean Jackson	August 30—Louis Blanton
August 12—Jan Gilbert	August 31—Carolyn Turner
August 12—Elizabeth Humphreys	August 31—Wray Brown
August 13—Michelle Simon	



## Charlotte's Pantry

### August Pantry Schedule

- Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 5 to 6:30 pm
- Friday, August 22, 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



## Wednesday Night's in August

Wednesday, August 6—Bethel Block Party!

Wednesday, August 14—Choir Practice at 5:30 PM, Sacred Circle at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, August 20—Choir Practice at 5:30 PM, Youth Group at 6:00 PM, Sacred Circle at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, August 27—Choir Practice at 5:30 PM, Youth Group at 6:00 PM, Sacred Circle at 6:30 PM





## THANK YOU

Dear Bethel Baptist,

Thank you for the scholarship money and thoughtful graduation gifts. I will put it all to good use at JMU. More importantly, thank you for being my outlet to know Jesus Christ. The whole church community and its members have made an impeccable impact on my life, and I am forever grateful.

Love,

**Slate Baker**

Dear Bethel Family,

Once again thank you for the get well cards, phone calls, text messages and the many prayers on my behalf during my recent hospital stay. The goody basket delivered to my home from the church was a much enjoyed treat. I treasure my Bethel Church Family & may God bless each of you in a special way.

In Christian Love,

**David Grubbs**

Thank you so much for all the cards, food and basket of goodies. You are so kind to think of us especially in your prayers, which we feel every day during Marks recovery. God is so good to us and we pray blessings on all of you!

**Mark and Carol Kimmel**

Thank you so much for all of the calls, texts, prayers, visits and meals given to me since my surgery in May. I have never belonged to such a wonderful body of believers like you all at Bethel who show their love so generously!!!

**Ora Smith**

I would like to thank the numerous church members that helped move me into the assisted living facility that I am in now. In addition I also want to thank everyone for their visits, calls, cards and flowers, I really appreciate them! You all are special to me.

In Christian love,

**Dennis Glazener**

Dear Bethel Family,

Thanks for the beautiful flowers, cards, visits, phone calls and, most of all, prayers during my recent hospitalizations. You made me feel special by being such a loving example of God's care.

**Jean Jackson**

## Church Email Addresses

**Todd Bradbury, Pastor:**

tbradbury@bbc1817.org

**Jeremy Meads, Family Life Minister:**

jmeads@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

**Heather Kerns, Preschool Director:**

hkerns@bbc1817.org

**Bruce Moseley, Technical Support:**

webmaster@bbc1817.org

## Christmas Cantata Practice

Please join us! Practice for the December Christmas Cantata begins on **Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 PM**. If you have questions, please see Stephanie Blanton.



## Ministry & Missions Meeting

Join us for our quarterly Ministry & Missions Meeting on **Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 PM** in the People of Hope Center. We'll begin with communion and offer a Zoom option for those attending virtually.

A Community Meal will be served at 6:00 PM, with sign-ups available soon.

The Book of Reports and Zoom link will be sent electronically before the meeting. Printed reports will also be available in the People of Hope Center ahead of time and on the night of the meeting.



## Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 17

As the new school year approaches, we invite all students—from preschoolers to college students—to bring their backpacks to our **10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, August 17**. During the service, we will offer a special blessing for the students, their backpacks, and the journey ahead.

This is a wonderful opportunity to surround our students with prayer and support as they embark on a new academic year. Teachers, school staff, and parents are also encouraged to participate as we extend our blessings to all involved in education.

Let's come together to uplift our students and educators in faith and fellowship. Invite friends and neighbors to join this meaningful service!

## 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





**BETHEL**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Museum of the Bible Bus Trip</b>, 8 AM Departure from Bethel</li></ul>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Communion Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday School</b>, 9:30 AM</li><li>• <b>Worship</b>, 10:30 AM, POHC</li><li>• <b>Website Content Filming</b> Before and After Worship</li><li>• <b>Girl Scouts</b>, 5 PM, Downstairs</li></ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ESL</b>, 8:30 AM Downstairs</li><li>• <b>Sharing and Caring</b>, 9 AM, Endeavors Room</li><li>• <b>WMU</b>, 10 AM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vacation Bible School</b>, 6 PM Parlor to Sign In</li><li>• <b>Boy Scouts</b>, 7 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bethel Block Party</b>, 6 PM, POHC &amp; Grounds</li></ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Men's Fellowship Lunch</b>, Noon at Italian Delight</li><li>• <b>AA Meeting</b>, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li><li>• <b>Vacation Bible School</b>, 6 PM Parlor to Sign In</li></ul>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday School</b>, 9:30 AM</li><li>• <b>Worship</b>, 10:30 AM POHC</li><li>• <b>Memorial Association Meeting</b>, Following Worship</li><li>• <b>Girl Scouts</b>, 5PM, Downstairs</li></ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ESL</b>, 8:30 AM Downstairs</li><li>• <b>Sharing and Caring</b>, 9 AM, Endeavors Room</li></ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Boy Scouts</b>, 7 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Charlotte's Pantry</b> 5-6:30 PM</li><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Choir Practice</b>, 5:30 PM</li><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Sacred Circle</b>, 6:30 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>AA Meeting</b>, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li><li>• <b>Circle of Truth Rehearsal</b>, 5:30 PM</li></ul>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday School</b>, 9:30 AM</li><li>• <b>Worship</b>, 10:30 AM, POHC</li><li>• <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b> During Worship</li><li>• <b>Girl Scouts</b>, 5PM, Downstairs</li></ul>	<b>18 1st Day of School for Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preschool Teacher Workday</b></li><li>• <b>ESL</b>, 8:30 AM Downstairs</li><li>• <b>Sharing and Caring</b>, 9 AM, Endeavors Room</li></ul>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preschool Teacher Workday</b></li><li>• <b>Boy Scouts</b>, 7 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preschool Teacher Workday</b></li><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Choir Practice</b>, 5:30 PM</li><li>• <b>Youth Group</b>, 6 PM, Youth Suite</li><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Sacred Circle</b>, 6:30 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>21 Happy Birthday Pastor Todd!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preschool Teacher Workday</b></li><li>• <b>AA Meeting</b>, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li><li>• <b>Bethel Preschool Back to School Night</b>, 5:30 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Charlotte's Pantry</b>, 9 - 11 AM</li></ul>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday School</b>, 9:30 AM</li><li>• <b>Worship</b>, 10:30 AM, POHC, Gideon</li><li>• <b>Girl Scouts</b>, 5PM, Downstairs</li></ul> <b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday School</b> 9:30 AM</li><li>• <b>Worship</b>, 10:30 AM, POHC</li><li>• <b>Girl Scouts</b>, 5PM, Downstairs</li></ul>	<b>25 Welcome Back! 1st Day of Preschool!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ESL</b>, 8:30 AM Downstairs</li><li>• <b>Sharing and Caring</b>, 9 AM, Endeavors Room</li></ul>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Boy Scouts</b>, 7 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Choir Practice</b>, 5:30 PM</li><li>• <b>Youth Group</b>, 6 PM, Youth Suite</li><li>• <b><u>NEW TIME!</u> Sacred Circle</b>, 6:30 PM, POHC</li></ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship Lunch</b>, Noon at Four Seasons Restaurant</li><li>• <b>AA Meeting</b>, 5:30 PM, Providers Room</li></ul>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



1100 HUGUENOT SPRINGS ROAD  
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23113

#### WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL | 10:30 AM WORSHIP

