

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church
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Staunton, VA 24401

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August 2010



From the Pastor's Desk

(Elder Jane H. Law has written our "From the Pastor's Desk" while Joel continues his sabbatical)

"HOMECOMING"

Homecoming – (Webster's II New College Dictionary)

1. An arrival or return home.
2. An annual event for visiting

When you hear the word "*Homecoming*" what thoughts come to your mind? Do you think of children/family members coming home from an extended stay elsewhere; kids coming home from college; armed forces members returning from service duty? Each of these events is worthy of being called a "*Homecoming*." A time to enjoy the company of family members/friends who have been away and catching-up on all the happenings both with those returning and those at home. A time of enjoyment, love, and being a part of a family and friend circle. Most likely, as we Presbyterians know, food will be a big part of the "*Homecoming*" scene. Remember the story of the Prodigal Son and the celebration that took place!

You may think of our Bethel Church *Homecoming*. Each year on the fourth Sunday in August we celebrate "*Homecoming*." At this time we have a special person lead our morning worship service – usually someone who has ties with our church – either as a past minister of Bethel, a seminary student who helped during summer services in the past, a member of Bethel who attended seminary and became a minister, a minister related to a church family member or a special person from Presbytery.

The service has special music presented by the Choir for the occasion and beautiful floral

arrangements throughout the church buildings. It is a very warm and festive time where we greet and talk with past members and friends who we don't often see. Such a happy time in remembering "the good old days" with old-time friends!

Following the service a wonderful meal/feast is available. The tastiest food prepared by members and friends is enjoyed by all.

How happy God must be to see his children enjoying the company of one another and having such a good time! Thanks be to God!

Another "*Homecoming*" is when we go to our Eternal Home. Imagine the joy when we are once again with our Loved Ones and see Jesus face-to-face! What a "*Homecoming*" that will be!!

Each member, past and present, and friends of Bethel Presbyterian Church are invited to our **Annual Homecoming Service and Lunch on Sunday, August 22nd, 2010**. The Worship Service will be held at **11:00 AM**. Our worship leader will be the Reverend Bob Goshorn. Come and renew friendships and make new ones. Look around our beautiful church and remember the good times you shared here. Bring a covered dish and enjoy a delightful meal. Let's make this a "*Homecoming*" to remember.

God is Great! God is Good! Amen.

Elder, Jane H. Law

Communion will be held on August 29th, 2010.

Nominating Committee Selection – At a Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 20th, the Congregation elected the following Nominating Committee for 2010:

Laura Barmore
Charlie Beard
Barbara Damico
Barbara Gough
Joe F. Williams

Rev. Goshorn - While Joel continues his sabbatical the Worship Committee welcomes the Rev. Robert D. "Bob" Goshorn to the pulpit during the month of August.

Elders of the Week - While Joel is on sabbatical, the elders have in place a system of "elders of the week" where two elders are the contacts for each week.

Please call one of the "elders of the week" listed below for the particular week in question if you have any of the following needs:

- a death in the family or the church family
- a death in the wider community that we need to respond to

- a sickness/health problem that you would like prayer for
- a surgery that you would like visitation and prayer for
- a hospital stay that you would like visitation and prayer for
- an emergency you would like prayer for
- a need you would like the church to pray for
- a need of others that you would like the church to pray for

If you would like or need a visit or think a visit would be appropriate for the situation, please indicate that when you talk with the elders.

Elder on Duty During Joel's Sabbatical

July 29th-Aug. 11th	Bill Brubeck Yvonne Goodson	(540)885-5871 (540)885-2716 / (540)280-4391
Aug. 12th-Aug. 25th	Billy Wade Jill Webb	(540)337-2032 (540)337-4311 / (540)332-4196 (wk)
Aug. 26th-Sept. 8th	Kathy Swisher Peggy Smith	(540)885-7397 (540)886-4653
Sept. 9th-Sept. 22nd	Louise Hoy Don Hall	(540)886-3314 (540)886-3280
Sept. 23rd-Sept.30th	James Williams Jill Webb	(540)294-1851 (540)337-4311 / (540)332-4196 (wk)

219th PCUSA General Assembly News and Updates

As Rev. Painter mentioned during the worship service on July 11th, the 219th General Assembly (2010) adjourned July 10th. Cynthia Bolbach, Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA (National Capitol Presbytery) was elected Moderator. More than 300 actions were taken during the Assembly. For those interested, you may find more information at www.pcusa.org/ga219 . Another source for comments on the Assembly is www.layman.org. A wrap-up of the Assembly will appear in the August issue of *Presbyterians Today*. If you are "computerless" a printed copy of the "Post General Assembly pastoral letter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk" that gives an overview and explains five of the items that garnered media attention was given to all Elders and is also available from Jill (337-4311) or the church office.

- Jill Webb, Elder, Denominational Issues

To Receive the Tower - If you have a child or grandchild in college that you would like to receive the Tower, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by August 19th, 2010. If you are a student that would like to receive the Tower, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by the date above.

Name of Student: _____

Address: _____

If they (or you) are a returning student please resubmit the information again so the list can be updated for the 2010-2011 school year. This form can be placed in the offering plate, in the secretary's mailbox in Memorial Hall, or in the mail: Bethel Presbyterian Church; Attn: Church Secretary; 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401. Thank you!

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER STORES?

Kroger Gift Services offers a 5% cash rebate to Bethel for your purchases made with a special Kroger gift card. You may acquire the reusable, reloadable cards from Joyce Miller. They may be used for purchases at any Kroger or Kroger Affiliate across the US, including Kroger gas stations.

The card is worth its face value for your purchases; your receipt keeps track of the amount of money remaining on your card.

The card may be reloaded at the Kroger Customer Service desk or at check out. You can add money to the card with cash, a debit card, or a credit card. Each time, you are supporting Bethel.

If you or your friends shop at Kroger, and you're interested in participating, please contact Bethel volunteer Joyce Miller at 540-337-0828.

Presbyterian Women
August Emphasis - Church Conferences, Homecoming

Afternoon Circle will meet at 2:30 pm on August 10th, 2010.
Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on August 10th, 2010.
August 1st - PWCT Meeting
August 22nd - Homecoming

New tables for the Fellowship Hall are here! The Deacons will select and store the old/discarded tables on a separate cart. A process will then be defined for disposing of them. If you would be interested in having one or more of these tables, please contact Joyce Miller, who has a list of requests for the tables. Thank you!

Adult Choir - members and anyone who would like to help sing during the worship service will resume practice on August 4th. Choir practice is on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. We would love to have new and returning choir members!

The Bells of Bethel will resume practice the week of August 22nd after taking the summer off. The exact date and time of practice TBA. If you are interested in joining please contact JoAnn Pendley (540-324-0152).

August Offering Schedule

Aggie Dodson
Shirley Heizer
Josh Smith
Wayne Swisher

Flower Schedule

August 1-Drury Whitaker
August 8 - Libby Smith
August 15 - Claudia Hall
August 22 - Tish Folsom - Homecoming
August 29 - Betty Jo Olson - Communion

August Nursery Schedule

August 1 - Bruce and Linda Lamond
August 8 - Katie Williams; Mac Williams
August 15 - Karen Koogler; Kelley Tuennermann
August 22 - Libby Smith; Evelyn LaPorte
August 29 - Joe and Sally Williams

Receiving Treasurer Quarterly Report

Pledges: Pledges received through June 30th, 2010 are 45 for a total of \$98,236. It is never too late to pledge. Cards are available in the vestibule, hallway and office.

Budget: The estimated budget for the period January 1st to June 30th, 2010 was \$91,338. The total offering received for this period is \$90,244.

Mission Fund: In addition to the receipts to budget, the total raised this year for missions as of 7/18/10 is \$24,321. Of this total the BAJA Mission Team itself has raised \$13,500 through personal donations, sponsor donations and other activities in the community. The remaining \$10,821 was raised by in-church fundraisers and individual donations. The effort by the team to find sponsors was the first time this method of raising funds for mission projects was used here at Bethel. \$6,685 was received from sponsors.

Thank you all for your continued support of Bethel's commitments and projects.

SESSION NEWS

The Deacons are considering air conditioning the kitchen at Bethel and some money from the sale of timber may be needed for this. Therefore, the money received will be held in the Endowment Money Market account until the A/C project is completed.

Wallace Pilson requested that his membership be transferred to Greenville Baptist Church.

The Mission Quilt will be displayed at the Augusta County Fair and chances will be sold there. The money will be kept in a special account until the drawing.

Walton Gordon, a Lay minister, will be the guest minister one Sunday during Joel's sabbatical.

A new telephone answering machine has been installed in the Church Office.

Elders have been appointed for specific dates during Joel's absence. Please contact any elder if you need assistance.

The Session will not have another regular meeting until Sunday, August 29th. In the meantime, please contact the Clerk of the Session for any specific need.

Deacons Notes

The Deacons did not meet in July, our traditional month off.

The Women of the Church successfully completed testing a rebate program with Kroger grocery stores Gift Services. Bethel members and friends can now acquire Kroger cards to pay for grocery purchases, and Kroger will return 5% of sales from the cards as a charitable contribution to Bethel. To get a card, please see Joyce Miller. For convenience, you can add funds to your card at the checkout counter using cash or other credit cards.

Augusta Lumber, winner of the Bethel timber auction, paid for the timber in full. The payment was deposited with the Bethel Endowment accounts. Logging operations began in July and are scheduled for completion in August. The auction price included pulpwood and firewood as well as timber from the sold and marked trees. After logging is complete, the Deacons will determine the disposition of any remaining firewood. We thank Larry Edwards, our forestry agent, for his generous contribution to Bethel.

Tim Turner installed a sunscreen on the east front sanctuary window to reduce heat and glare for the choir. Some repairs and repainting were completed in the Manse. An answering machine was installed in the Bethel office for recording out-of-hours messages.

We thank the Trustees and their contractor for the new fences around the cemetery and playground.

Deacon's Prayer List

Glenn Austin, Edith Beahm, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Melissa Coffey, Jim Crosby, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Nellie Hamilton, Wayne Hord, Flora Law , Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Roy Pilson, Les Prickett, Allen Quick, Adam Ritter, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swortzel, David Turner.

<p><u>Thank you</u> to the Bethel Congregation for their care, concern and prayers during my illness. - Judy Olson</p>

An Evening of Prayer

You're invited to experience a spectacular opportunity! Engage intimately in prayer with your local pastors. Praise and worship with world renown worship leader and recording artist Charles Billingsley. And be blessed by messages from incredible speakers like Jonathan Falwell, senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Pastor Bill Johnson (Crossroads Baptist Church; Fishersville), and Dr. Steve Wingfield. Listen to them talk about prayer and its place in our great nation.

This is going to be a VERY special moment in our nation's history as we petition our Father in Heaven for His guidance and we would love for you to be a part of this.

The event is August 20th at Augusta Expoland in Fishersville, VA. Doors open at 7:00 pm, but come early and visit our indoor hospitality area to meet local businesses and ministries! Tickets are just \$10. To find out more, visit the Evening of Prayer website at www.connected123.com/evening_of_prayer/.

TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR ALL WHO STAND IN NEED OF PRAYER .

