



# The Echo

December 2019

A publication of Bethany United Methodist Church, Weyers Cave, VA

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If you would like ...  
and currently don't  
receive the church  
newsletter  
and other important  
updates by email, please  
send your email address to  
Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).



*Our Christmas Eve Services will be a wonderful time  
of worship and celebration  
on the eve of our Savior's birth.*

**We will have a 4 pm service planned especially for the young  
and young at heart!**

We've all heard the story of the three wisemen who brought their gifts to Baby Jesus. But what about the camels who carried them? Listen to the story of Humphrey the camel and his long, cold journey to Bethlehem. Humphrey has lost his blanket and schemes to acquire a new one. Join us to find out what happens to Humphrey when he sees the baby Jesus.

**Or you can join us at 9 pm for a traditional candlelight service  
featuring the sights and sounds of the season.**

Invite family and friends and come, be reminded of the  
true meaning of Christmas!



## From the Pastor's Desk

You have probably heard the story "The Man and the Birds." Years ago, when radio personality Paul Harvey was on the air, he would share this short story at Christmas time. Since then many versions of it have circulated. I think it embodies the spirit of Emmanuel, God with us.

### The Man and the Birds

A man had decided to stay home one Christmas Eve while his wife took the children to church services. He had never been much of a believer. The idea of God coming to earth as a helpless child never completely made sense to him. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a human being?"

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound ... then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud ... At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had

tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them...He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms...Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me... That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

*"If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand."*

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells playing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" – listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

And he sank to his knees in the snow.

### The End

According to Paul Harvey, who retold this parable every Christmas for decades, *the story was originally published by United Press International by Louis Cassels, a longtime friend of Harvey's. The two of them tried for many years to trace the author of these words. They never could. Maybe some things are supposed to be written without credit to any particular individual.*

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Remember the good news: God is with us,

Pastor Susan

## The BUMS Christmas Post Office is officially OPEN!!

We invite you to "mail" your Christmas cards to REGULAR ATTENDING members by dropping them in the appropriate baskets in the fellowship hall. A donation of .25 cents is appreciated. All proceeds will go to the BUMS summer mission trip.

Hey, and don't forget to check the basket for cards "mailed" to you from your Bethany family.

What a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit with others!



## Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the missions team!

A Huge THANK YOU for all the wonderful contributions over the month. Jackie was able to have 20 pairs of shoes for the South River Shoe Sharing project to help out South River Elementary.

The Chili Cook Off had a donation of \$195 that we sent to Wounded Warriors and it will be doubled to help out those veterans. We had 10 yummy pots of delicious chili to sample and find a winner ... and the winner was Scott Williams with "The Only Chili." Second place went to Carolyn Swartz and third place was Geneva Burns. The spiciest chili went to Dani Martlock. Thank you for all donations for the evening. It was a great night of fellowship and warm tummies.

We collected 71 gifts for the Apple Tree Project with Kingsway Ministries. Thank you for the all children that will have a happier Christmas because of your donations. The adult mission team loves supporting this great cause and we couldn't do it each year without your help. So, thank you for all the great presents that were bought for these kids.

We had our first Loads of Love at the end of November. This is where we help do the laundry of the homeless people that are staying with Open Doors (which is local churches in Rockingham County taking a week to host the homeless over the winter season). There was a great turnout of help for the first one and we will be doing it again in February and March. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please give it to Maggie Rhodes or put in the missions mailbox, labelled "Loads of Love". Each time we do laundry it takes about \$100 for this project to happen. If you would like to help wash the laundry, please let Maggie know that too.

Thank you to those who signed up to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market on December 7.

Sunday, December 8 will be one service at 9:30 am and immediately following the service, there will be mini-mission projects to work on. There are lots of projects to work on. Which one will you choose? They are all for a great cause and each one will benefit from your time of help. There are posters up featuring the mission projects that will be available for you to help with. We will soon be adding another mission project for First Step. It will be dealing with donations of baby items. Check your bulletin for all the up to date info.

Our mission focus for the month will be FoB (Friends of Barnabas). Their slogan is "Making the world a little better... one child at a time." We have had a group from our church go on a FoB mission trip for many years.

From the FoB website: "Since the year 2000...FoB has provided 432,735 patient encounters receiving free health care; 44,932 eyeglasses distributed to people in need; 12,742 patients receiving free dental care, 3,750 volunteers have traveled to Honduras with Friends of Barnabas; 1,354 lifesaving or life changing surgeries performed."

Everyone that has gone on this trip says it is a trip of a lifetime and it changes each person differently. Gary Lucas is in charge of the trip each year and if you are interested, please contact him. The Christmas offering this year will also be going to FoB, so please give generously. This is a wonderful ministry to give a donation to.

If you know of anyone in need or help, please let us know.

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## So Many Thank Yous to So Many People ...

- Thanks to all those who ordered "real" and "living" poinsettias. They will adorn our sanctuary beginning December 15 and you can pick them up on December 29.
- Thank you to the ladies who made and repaired Chrismons for our Chrismon tree. They are beautiful!
- Thank you to Nancy Colvin for decorating our sanctuary windows!
- Thank you to the Worship Committee for all their hard work during the Advent season - Jackie Dunsmore, Dale Roller, Marguerite McDonald and Mary Beth Schwab.
- And thank you to YOU - for always stepping up to help where needed, for donating food, toys, snacks, hats, scarfs, and many, many other things we've asked of you. But mostly, for the loving and generous person you are.



## Memories Naked Creek to Bethany ...

"We need a new building!" these words rang out clear.  
"You must believe it, the termites are here!"

So small in number, how could we build?  
Would it be here, or up on some hill?

A lot of decisions had to be made.  
No time to back-slide or sit in the shade.

Committees started working, a site was acquired.  
Still no time to wait or even get tired.

A new name we needed, and each had a say,  
We met to decide on one certain day.

Fellowship, Community, Trinity, Calvary, we had quite a few,

But, when we voted, only "Bethany" would do.

The money we needed seemed never to end;  
But with faith in our Lord, we had a real friend.

With sales, suppers, and plays we were all kept busy,  
And that great "Mile of Dollars" made some of us dizzy.

Under the careful guidance of Hurt and Wine,  
They came up with plans that suited us fine.

Then, on a day in December, 1954,  
They turned over the keys, and we opened the door.

The day was quite bad, and our lot was not paved;  
We had plenty of mud, but all acted real brave.

The word had been sent to all our dear friends;  
"Today, service at Bethany begins."

The service was inspiring, with song, sermon, and praise.  
It seems like a grand climax to all our past days.

Charlie Burkett, our Pastor, was proud of his flock;  
We had made it with the help from the great "Solid Rock."

Of course we had dinner, we fed quite a few.  
The facilities were ideal, the kitchen, brand new!

There are many not with us who helped with this task;  
But they have gone home to a mansion at last.

To mention some I feel I should;  
They were some of the best, so kind and good.

There was "Miss" Minnie VanPelt, so saintly and meek;  
She sure loved that spot we left down by the creek.

And dear Mrs. Tutwiler, with her proper way;  
You must listen close to what she had to say.

Mr. Henry Byers, who prayed on his knees;  
That we would all good, and faithful servants be.

Mr. Zeph Wise, though short and stout,  
When he taught his class the Gospel poured out.

"Ma" Roller, with her lovely flowers;  
We enjoyed their beauty for hours and hours.

Mrs. Elta Cline, who hated that paper plate;  
So she used china whenever she ate.

Mrs. Lawrence, who lived on her farm close by;  
There wasn't much work that she wouldn't try.

"Miss" Mary Al and "Lill," two sisters dear;  
I remember them all as if they were still here.

Mr. Talley and Bessie Eddins, I have found memories of yet;

They worried a lot that our debt would be met.

Mr. Rinker VanPelt, the Burketown store he did keep,  
He used to walk to church down at Old Naked Creek.

"Miss" Lena VanPelt, one of my favorite people,  
She was glad we built here where she could almost see the steeple.

Alda Saufley, who always worked hard;  
I'm sure she has gone on to receive her reward.

In spite of our efforts the credit is due  
To our Heavenly Father who carried us through.

With a prayer in your heart, what ever the task,  
Your Father will help you, if only you ask.

For those who come after and those gone before;  
May Bethany always remain, with a wide open door.

(Written in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of  
Bethany United Methodist Church

December 16, 1979 by  
LaRue "Bitsy" Eddins

Saufley

7-08-1927

11-20-2019)



## Christmas at Bethany ...



### The Christmas Tree

From a Tree a Manger was Made,  
On the First Christmas, in it He Laid

Also From a Tree a Cross was Made  
And On it, for Our Sins, the Price He Paid

I remember Each Year, as the Tree I Adorn  
His gift Giving Began, the Day He was Born

As I Gently Place Each Ornament of Gold  
In His Hands I Place my Heart, and My Life,  
For Him to Hold

Trusting in Him to take Good Care of Me  
I Pray and I Sing, as I Decorate the Tree

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Light," said He,  
That's Why I put Lights on My Christmas Tree.  
(anonymous)



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

by Cindy Kite, Treasurer

It's the Advent Season ... a time of waiting. I anxiously await the Advent season at church every year. It just seems like it's the most special time we share as Christians. The decorations, the Chrismon tree, the Christmas carols, the fellowships, and most important, the birth of our Savior ... all are worth waiting for each year. I look forward to taking "apples" from the Apple Project Tree every year. I realize that we are buying gifts that go to a child we don't know, but purchasing that gift makes me happy. Just knowing that I can help make another's Christmas a little happier, makes my Christmas a lot happier and my heart full of joy. And this year we could also purchase shoes for children in need! How awesome is that?

My most favorite thing about Advent is hearing the Christmas story again. Each year, I try imagine how each person involved that fateful night felt. Sometimes I think of Mary or Joseph, and sometimes it's the wisemen. This year, it's from the prospective of the innkeeper. It was a busy time in Bethlehem by the time Mary and Joseph got there. People were everywhere going in every direction. I'm sure the innkeeper was about ready to pull his hair out! People wanting this or that or something else. He was already overbooked and overworked. But ... here come Mary and Joseph wanting a place to stay the night. And by the time they came to his door, the innkeeper was totally irritated. I'm sure he opened the door, snapped that there were no rooms and was in the process of slamming the door shut!

And then ... I think that God probably tapped him on the shoulder and whispered in his ear that he needed to help these travelers how ever he could. But how? There weren't anymore rooms. He couldn't just snap his fingers and make another room appear. Ah, however, there is one place he thought ... the stable. So he guided a very tired Joseph and a very weary Mary around the inn to the stable. Do you think he felt bad having to leave a very pregnant young girl in a stable or just glad to be rid of them? I choose to think he felt bad that he couldn't do more. I feel that he knew there was something special about this pregnant girl. He just wasn't sure what. He would have to wait and see. He didn't have to wait long because, you know how the story goes, Mary gave birth to God's only Son that night in that small stable. I'm sure just as soon as the innkeeper looked at the tiny baby born in his stable, he knew this child was special. And he had been a part of that! How that had to warm his heart and make him smile. When you can be a part of something special like that, you have to take it in. Close your eyes and inhale. Hold it. Then exhale

December 8, 2019 - Week 49

Budget	242,967.00	
Where We Should Be		228,949.56
Where We Are		193,692.08
Deficit of		(32,257.48)
Net Percentage		-15.4%
Expenses as of 12/08/19		205,039.20

slowly. And keep that warm sensation of giving and helping others with you all year long. I can not even begin to imagine how it made the innkeeper feel. His heart had to be overflowing with joy! He couldn't do much, but he did what he could.

And so what's that got to do with church finances you're wondering. As you can see, we haven't met the budget for 2019. We are \$32,257.48 short. We will have no extra funds to begin 2020. So, we're asking you to do what you can. It doesn't have to be much, just make a gift of what you can to the church this December. Our finances aren't where we need them to be and anything you can do to help with a last minute gift would be very much appreciated. Just knowing that your gift helped to purchase children's Sunday School curriculum, purchase music for the choir, supported all the fellowships we've shared this Christmas, helped with the Chrismon tree decorations, fed people who needed fed, comforted people who needed comforted and even helped with the non-fun things like ... kept the boiler running so we would have heat, kept the lights on so we could hold services, and the list goes on and on. To be a part of God's plan for Bethany, even a small part, should fill your heart with joy!

Is God tapping you on the shoulder or whispering in your ear? Asking you, just as he did the innkeeper, to do whatever you can? The innkeeper didn't have much to offer, but he offered what he had. You never know what difference you are making in the life of Bethany and it's members with your gift ... big or small. Keep that feeling all year long by making a regular offering. It doesn't have to be huge, it can be small. It will help keep that Christmas joy in your heart all year long.

**Please remember that all gifts have to be turned in or be postmarked by December 31 to post on your 2019 statement. And all reimbursable receipts need to be turned in to the office by Friday, January 10!** Questions? Just shoot me an email or call the office. I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Thanks to all who helped "Share the Promise" on Sunday, Dec. 8. Together we ...

- baked, packaged and handed out over 50 bags of cookies to our food pantry neighbors
- delivered soup, chili and cookies to Grottoes, Weyers Cave and Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Stations, as well as Bridgewater Rescue Squad
- packed over 40 bags of snacks to give to the guests of Open Doors at our next two Loads of Love nights
- put together around 30 bags of ready to go crafts for the children at First Step
- traced, cut and layered postpartum pads, too many to count
- as well as collected a bin full of donations for First Step and Open Doors.

Thank you for your overflowing love and generosity!

## BUM BITES

The BUMS will be serving a meal at Valley Mission in Staunton on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 5 pm which will be prepared that morning during the Connections hour. We need all hands on deck to prepare, deliver and serve this meal. Afterwards, we will meet at the Cook's home for a Christmas Party and Chinese gift exchange (bring a gift between \$5 and \$10). Finger foods are requested if you are planning to attend. Please contact Shawn Cook as soon as possible if you can help. And adults are needed



to help with transportation.

And looking ahead ... add to your calendar a BUM BASH on Sunday, January 19 to go ice skating at Generations Park in Bridgewater. We will leave after the Connections hour to get lunch and then off to the ice skating rink. More info coming soon!



## ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES!

There will be a "2020 Church Planning" meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 pm. **Please meet with your committee before this meeting and make a general outline of tentative events and dates for 2020.** Bring your dates to the meeting to be placed on the 2020 church calendar in advance. Hopefully this will allow us to plan ahead and eliminate overlapping activities and events. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Schwab, Pastor Susan or Cindy Kite. **We would love to have 100% participation from committees!**



## January Calendar Activities

Monday, Jan. 6

6pm - Worship Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 7

10 am - Caring Cards

12 pm - Young at Hearts

(at McAllister's)

6:30 pm - Women's Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 14

6:30 pm - 2020 Church Planning Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 18

8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, Jan. 19

5 pm - Churchwide Birthday Party

Tuesday, Jan. 21-28

Pastor Susan on Vacation

Saturday, Jan. 25

Fellowship Hall Reserved



Whenever you leave the church, please make sure all doors are tightly closed and locked.

Our kitchen door, which many who don't have a key use, is not easy to close. When you exit by that door, please give it a pull from the outside to make sure it is securely closed. It has been left unlatched several times in the past few months.

Please help us keep you and our employees safe at all times!

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

The December Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8 am at the church. All men are invited to this time of food, fellowship and prayer ... prayer for each other, prayer for our church and prayer for our hurting world. Questions? Contact Eddie Moyer.



## Help Wanted

Do you enjoy using PowerPoint? If so, we have the perfect job for you! We are looking for someone who would be willing to create a PowerPoint with announcements to be played in the foyer each Sunday morning. If you would be interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Jackie Dunsmore.



## December

1st Gerald Fulton  
Jeff Ritchie  
3rd Kristin Kile  
5th Annie Roller  
9th Hudson Dunsmore  
16th Shawn Cook  
18th Louise Motley  
Garland Davis  
19th Layne Shifflett  
20th Elizabeth Williams  
21st Amber Casey  
23rd Jane Elkins  
25th JESUS!  
Alexander Carter  
26th Garrett Roller  
27th Ken Hopkins  
29th Jake Frizzelle

15th Mark Whitecotton  
Sharon Northrop  
17th Rhylan Metcalfe  
18th Abe Smith  
21st Barbara Miller  
Pam Roller  
Randy Roller  
27th Jean Houff  
28th Peggy Lucas  
30th Lloyd Meadows

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or is not listed at all, please contact the office and let Cindy know so she can make that correction in the church database. Thank you!



## January

1st Kim Moyer  
7th Jake Dunsmore  
MacKenzie Crawford  
8th Krisalyn Mooney  
11th Liam Howard  
12th Billy Ryan  
13th Abby Michael

## Prayer List

### Members

Bud & Barbara Somers,  
Hazel Truslow, Todd Ott,  
Tom & Jan Gorden, Zeke Craun,  
Roy Lee Stroop, Susan Freeze,  
Jean Houff

Our dear, sweet member,  
Ruby Botkin, passed away on Dec. 8.  
We extend Christian sympathy  
to her family.

We also extend Christian sympathy to  
Jennifer Cook and family  
upon the death of her grandfather,  
Robert McMillion.

And to Paul Clamp and family  
upon the death of his wife, Francesca.

And to the family of long time member  
Bitsy Saufley, who will be greatly  
missed by all.

## DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 4 pm - Food Pantry & Food Pantry Meal	3 10 am - Caring Cards 12 pm - Young at Hearts	4 5:45 pm - Choir Practice 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group	5 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	6	7 10 am - Bridgewater Christmas Parade
8 9:30 am - Mission Sunday with One Service and Mission Projects	9 4 pm - Food Pantry	10 <i>Be the reason someone smiles today.</i>	11 10 am - Les Feldick's Bible Study Small Group	12 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga	13	14 10 am - Fellowship Hall Reserved
15 6 pm 	16	17	18 5:45 pm - Choir Practice 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group	19 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	20 December Newsletter Deadline	21 8 am 
22	23 Pastor Susan on vacation until January 1, 2020.	24  4 pm - Family Service 9 pm - Candlelight Service	25 	26	27 	28
29 <i>live generously</i>	30	31 				



WISHING YOU  
AN ABUNDANTLY  
BLESSED HOLIDAY  
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF  
GRACE WE HAVE ALL  
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING  
AFTER ANOTHER  
JOHN 1:16

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Sundays

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship Service  
9:50 am—Sunday School for all ages  
11 am—Traditional Worship Service

#### Mondays

4-5:30 pm—Food Pantry

#### Wednesday

7 pm—Praise & Worship Practice

## Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)



Christmas Eve  
4 pm - Family Service  
9 pm - Candlelight Service

## The Echo

### "The Echo"

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Shawn Cook, Youth Director  
Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director  
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader  
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer  
Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

January Newsletter Deadline: Dec. 20, 2019

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

**Connect** with God in community  
**Grow** in our likeness to Jesus Christ  
**Serve** our neighbors