



The Echo

October 2020

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.

IN-PERSON IN-DOOR WORSHIP SERVICES COMING SOON!

Join us beginning Sunday, November 1 at 9:30 am
for our first "in-person, in-door" worship service since March!

Our Worship Committee has been working hard
bringing our Drive-In service to you each week by FM broadcast
and on Facebook Live.

We are so excited to start worshipping
inside our beautiful church building once again
and can't wait to see everyone there!

The down side ... we will be social distancing and wearing masks ...
for who knows how long!
The bright side ... we'll be doing it together!

From the Pastor's Desk

Celebrating Stewardship

October is Stewardship month. Does stewardship sound like a nice way of saying, "Give a little more?" For the last six and a half months, many people have been asked to do more. Teachers have been asked to learn how to teach virtually. Parents have had to create at-home learning centers often while working from home. We have all had to get used to wearing masks at the hairdressers, in the grocery store, and at work. Perhaps worst of all, we have had to cope with being separated from the people we love if they were in assisted living facilities or the hospital. All of this has reminded me that stewardship is about much more than financial giving.

Stewardship is about relationship. It begins with God's relationship with his creation. "God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). We are part of that creation and everything

we have comes from God in one way or another. Grace, forgiveness, a particular talent or something material we own, usually we can trace its origin back to our divine Creator.

However, it is good to remember the steward, a figure who appears in several of Jesus' parables. The steward doesn't take care of his own property. He takes care of the property his master has entrusted to him. He is accountable to the master for its safe keeping. We are only the caretakers, not the owners of what we have received. Even in difficult times we can benefit from taking time to recall all that has been entrusted to us and thank God.

As God's stewards we receive, with **joyful thanksgiving**, the many gifts that God showers upon us — time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us. We manage and take good care of what we have

received. And in return, we give of ourselves out of gratitude.

During this stewardship campaign I don't want to ask for more, I want to celebrate all that has been given. I do want to celebrate that nine months into a world-wide pandemic with nearly seven months of restrictions on in-person worship, we have somehow with much help, managed to continue to worship, continued to be in ministry and continued to be present in the community. Let's celebrate all that has been given to us by God, starting with Christ present with us. Let's celebrate the care that we give to one another by continuing to follow best practices to prevent infection. Let's celebrate what we have received from God and one another. Let's celebrate how God has formed us into a community of caring and faithfulness.

Pastor Susan

What: The Great Pumpkin Party

When: Saturday, October 25 from 4-6 pm

Where: Weyers Cave Community Center

Who: For our Bethany children and they can invite a friend to join them

Why: To have some fun, food and fellowship

How: All participants and helpers must wear a mask and respect Social Distancing

We need volunteers to help with games, direct foot traffic, ensure social distancing and to clean tables and chairs between use. We also need donations of individually wrapped candy. You can drop them off by the church or bring on Sunday mornings and leave with Jeff Ritchie when you check in. Thanks in advance for your help!



Stewardship Month is a Time to Celebrate by Jerry Sheets

CELEBRATE!???

What do we have to celebrate? There is plenty of bad news all around us; a bad virus, bad weather, bad fires and bad people. Not to mention another heated election year. And in spite of all that's going on, Pastor Susan has deemed this year's Stewardship Month of October as **A MONTH OF CELEBRATION**; celebration of all the wonderful, giving and self-sacrificing stewards here at Bethany.

Throughout the turmoil of this year, the friends and families of our church have persevered. The Food Pantry is going strong, still feeding an average of 40 or so families per week. Since they could not travel this year, the adult and youth mission teams have mobilized to help our local neighbors.

Our children are still being ministered to. Pastor Susan and the Worship Team have worked hard to provide services in spite of us not being able to worship in church. Church upkeep continues and church business is being handled. Volunteers have been stepping up anywhere and everywhere they are needed.

And although we are not at 100% of our budgeted needs, as of today we are only 12% behind where we should be at this time. It certainly can be said that with job losses, a slowed economy and restricted church attendance, things could be a lot worse. But just as diligently as in their active service, our church family has held their own in their financial support of Bethany and our mission. Truly, Bethany has always been a

generous church; generous to our members and neighbors in need, generous in our friendliness and kindness to others; and generous in our response to God's callings.

So, during Stewardship Month, I encourage all to find reasons to celebrate our strong church family of good stewards and all that we have accomplished so far this year. And although we will not be completing commitment cards this year, it is the time of the year that we can pray, reflect and meditate on how our Lord has truly blessed us, individually and as a church, and how we will respond to his blessings.

Thank you!

Jerry Sheets

Stewardship Chair



Charge Conference 2020

As with everything this year, Charge Conference will also look different. Our Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, October 24 at 11:30 am by Zoom. All are encouraged to participate. A Zoom link will be emailed to everyone. If you are new to Zoom and need help setting it up, please contact Pastor Susan by Friday, please don't wait until the day of the meeting! We will be voting on the 2021 budget and the slate of church officers and committee chairs.

On Tuesday, October 6, Church Council voted to accept the 2021 budget put forth by the Finance Committee, which will be voted on by the church at Charge Conference on Saturday, October 24 at 11:30 am by Zoom.

Salaries			Ministry Programs	
Pastor	54,400.00		Children's Camp Scholarships	250.00
Accounts Reimbursable	4,000.00		Children's Ministries	1,000.00
Housing & Utilities	1,250.00		Communications	1,000.00
Pension	11,152.00		Mailing Ministry (Don Truslow)	200.00
Secretary/Treasurer	14,160.00		Education	1,500.00
Music Director	8,275.00		Evangelism	1,500.00
Musician	6,000.00		Food & Fellowship	1,000.00
Sexton	7,514.00		Leadership & Development	300.00
Youth Director	0.00		Music Materials & Supplies	250.00
Employer Taxes	2,750.00		Small Group Ministry	800.00
TOTAL SALARIES	109,501.00		Softball Team	250.00
District Ministries			Substitute Musicians	300.00
District Ministries	5,220.00		Vacation Bible School	750.00
Apportionments	34,788.00		Women's Ministries	500.00
Annual Conf. - Delegate	700.00		Worship & Altar	1,800.00
Annual Conference - Pastor	300.00		Young Adult Ministry	100.00
TOTAL DISTRICT MINISTRIES	41,008.00		Youth Ministry	1,000.00
Office Expenses			TOTAL MINISTRY PROGRAMS	12,500.00
Computers/Software	2,400.00		Missions	
Copier	3,600.00		Misc Missions	350.00
Copy Paper	450.00		Gideons	300.00
Postage	700.00		Habitat for Humanity (Staunton)	650.00
Vanco Service (Online Giving)	980.00		Kingsway Ministries	850.00
Misc Office Supplies	870.00		Build United	950.00
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	9,000.00		Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta	500.00
Building & Grounds			Rise Harrisonburg	500.00
Misc Building & Grounds	8,000.00		Valley Mission	1,000.00
Cleaning Supplies	600.00		Weekday Religious Education	650.00
Electric	7,200.00		Young Life	500.00
Floor Maintenance	500.00		CASA	500.00
Insurance	6,100.00		First Step (Harrisonburg)	500.00
Lawn	1,400.00		Open Doors (Harrisonburg)	500.00
Heating Oil	12,000.00		TOTAL MISSIONS	7,750.00
Pest Control	800.00		Loans Payable	
Telephone & Internet	2,800.00		Naked Creek Cemetery Loan	1,000.00
Trash	1,100.00		TOTAL LOANS PAYABLE	1,000.00
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS	40,500.00		TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	221,259.00

BUM Bites



Welcome to another edition of BUM BITES. This edition will be quite different from the ones I've written

in the past. It is also hard for me to write, as my decision to step down from Youth Director at Bethany has become official.

I have truly felt God calling me to step down from youth director so that I can focus on His next calling for my life. For the past three years I have been struggling with the decision of becoming a local, licensed pastor through the UMC. I have been going back to get recertified year after year, but the last time I got recertified I

felt God really pushing me (a gentle push, of course) to focus and spend some time discerning this decision. I'm not sure what the next steps are for myself and my family, but I do ask each of you to pray that I may have clarity as I move forward.

I LOVE the youth at Bethany!! And have enjoyed being their Youth Director. These Bethany kids are AWESOME!!! They have a heart for missions, love being involved in church services and other church activities. I have proudly watched each of them grow in their faith.

I have also enjoyed working with the parents of these amazing kids and cannot thank them enough for the support they have given me during

my time as Youth Director. And to my Bethany family, thank you for everything you have done, and will continue to do, to support the BUMS.

I will end by saying that I am sure God is preparing someone for the position of Youth Director at Bethany. There is no doubt that the Youth Ministry will continue to grow. I still plan to work with the youth and to be part of their lives as I take some time and discern what God is calling me to do at this point in my life. Please continue to pray for the youth and be praying for their next Youth Director.

Blessings,

Shawn Cook



Help Wanted: BUM Youth Leader

The SPPR Committee met on Tuesday and decided to make the Youth Leader a volunteer position as of October 1, 2020. We are asking for Bethany members to step up and accept this position either alone, a married couple, or a team of two or more. Please contact the church office (540-234-8880 or office.bethany@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are willing to take on this volunteer position or would like more information about the position.

The two main reasons for changing this to a volunteer position are:

1. there has not been a lot of youth activity since the pandemic and this lack of activity is expected to continue for an unknown period of time and
2. the number of youth who will be an active part of this group after activities can restart is unknown.

In the meantime, the youth need to know they have a leader for guidance. Although there is not a monetary payment for this work, it certainly is a position which can give a feeling of fulfillment in knowing you are leading and making a difference in Bethany's youth in these uncertain times.

The youth summer mission trip for next summer is still on and that will take some time to plan in 2021. The youth do have funds remaining for 2020 and a budget for 2021. All expenses related to this position are reimbursable.

"Sick of Me" Ladies Book Study

Our world is filled with fake facades, from the unrealistic filters used on social media to the "holier than thou" personas seen in certain hypocritical believers.

In *Sick of Me*, Whitney Capps, shows us that spiritual growth means being both honest and holy – that we can come to Jesus just as we are, but we cannot stay that way. While virtues like vulnerability, honesty, and humility are desperately needed, we should fight for more.

After all, the gospel is a change-agent.

Whitney calls us beyond trendy transparency and into something better: true transformation. If you want to be honest about all your junk, but are also sick of staying there ... *Sick of Me* is for you!

The book study, which will be a discussion group, will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm beginning October 27. Facilitators for the study will be Kim Moyer and Cindy Kite. Since the church cannot hand out anything, you will need to purchase your own book on Amazon.

Please contact the office if you plan to participate so we can have proper distancing.

Sorry, but masks will be required!

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

October is already here!!! Time for cozy clothing and cool, crisp nights. Let us all enjoy each day to the fullest and make the most of your time on this earth. Take care of each other and help others when they need help.

Keep the firefighters out west in our thoughts and prayers and all the people that these fires are affecting.

Please keep all the students, teachers, and staff in your prayers during all this new way to teach and learn.

Mission Focus of the Month: Kingsway Ministries. Kingsway Ministries is located in Harrisonburg and they help the people that are getting out of jail to try to adjust being back in main society. Kingsway Outreach is a hands-on service ministry reaching out in Christian love to inmates, ex-offenders, and their families. They assist individuals and churches in ministering to the physical needs of families of those incarcerated. They provide training to individuals and churches, enabling them to work with those who have been affected by the criminal actions of others. They encourage individuals and churches to welcome returning citizens and their families to Christian fellowship and services to Christ. They offer training and resources to individuals and churches to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in prison and their families. Every year, Bethany church always helps with the Apple Tree Project and this gives Christmas gifts to families that have a parent incarcerated and might not otherwise receive gifts.

Be on the lookout for the Apple Tree Project list, (on the next page) we have decided to help with this event (since we normally do every year). We will be

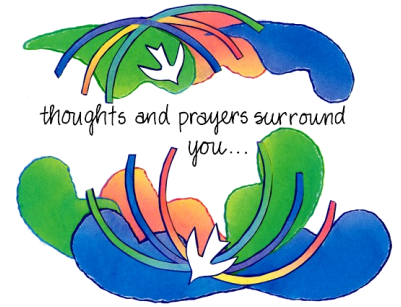
purchasing 50 gifts this year for Kingsway Ministries. If you would like to help with this mission event, please let me know and I will be sure to let you know when I get the list for you to be able to choose the person and gifts that they need/want. Thanks for always helping with all our events.

If you know of anyone who needs help, please let us know.

Bob Marley's "Don't worry 'bout a thing, cause every little thing's gonna be alright." Also directive, plus a call to appreciate the little things, like sunrises and bird song.

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney,
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com,
820-7394

Maggie Rhodes,
r.maggiianne@gmail.com, 383-4752



Members

Barbara Somers
Tom & Jan Gorden
Pat & Eddie Lynn
Phil Mikesell
Leslie Wagoner
Lloyd Meadows
Judy Faby
Carolyn Swartz

Extended Members:

Don & Diane Smiley - brother &
sister-in-law of Carolyn Swartz
Hannah Smiley - aunt of
Cindy Kite
Alvin Weaver - brother-in-law
of Jim Miller
Jo Moomaw - cousin of
Jim Miller
Uncle Phil - uncle of Beth
Metcalfe & Tim Schnittger



(Apple Tree Project names removed to protect privacy)

Return to In-Person Worship by Pastor Susan

As we move deeper into fall, the mornings can come with a definite nip in the air. With that onset of cooler weather, we will begin in-door in person worship on November 1. We hope to continue broadcasting the service to the parking lot for people who want to be present but don't feel comfortable coming indoors yet.

We will be following the Conference guidelines for indoor worship. Please be aware that everyone must wear a mask inside the building. Everyone will enter through the front doors after answering the questions on the Health Acknowledgement Poster. We are restricted to 50 people in the sanctuary and if there is overflow, 50 people in the Fellowship Hall. All of the Bibles, hymnals and other items have been removed from the pews. There will not be a bulletin. We are not supposed to sing but we can hum along. Everyone needs to maintain social distancing except with people from your household or bubble (grandparents and grandchildren in regular contact for example).

Following the service everyone will exit through the double doors in the Fellowship Hall. For the first few weeks, we will definitely need people to preregister for the service so we will know how to space groups of people. Just let the office know you are coming either by email or phone.

I can't wait to see people back in the church!



October Birthdays

1st Carolyn Roller & Tara Stroop
2nd Wayne Frizzelle
3rd Linda Byers & Landon Ryan
4th Brantley Metcalfe
6th Mary Beth Hill, Stephen Metcalfe & Kenneth Diehl
10th Jan Peterson
12th Maggie Rhodes
16th Maecy Anne Frizzelle
19th Jennifer Cook
20th John Hull
21st Barbara Somers & Wyatt Dunsmore
22nd Jan Fulton & Beth Metcalfe
23rd Tom Ott & Tobias Casey
27th Jenny Campbell
29th Lois Huffer, Ruth Ann Mikesell & Amy Michael



30th Kim Hull & Mary Tyree

31st Doug Hiner & Leslie Wagoner

November Birthdays

3rd Addyson Mooney
4th Jean Moyer
11th Donald Michael
12th Sarah Huffer
13th Rosemary Wagoner
14th Kelly Shifflett
17th Lorna Frizzelle & Ethan Cook
21st Carla Whitecotton & James Craun
24th Mike Huffer
25th Cindy Kite
27th Kathleen Stump
30th Anthony Streiff



I Miss My Church Family by Randy Roller

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

Romans 12: 4-5

Who would have thought nine months ago that we would find ourselves in the midst of a worldwide pandemic that prevents us from the interaction and socialization with others that is such an integral part of our daily lives. In January of this year I was looking forward with optimism to the new opportunities and yes, even the challenges that a new year brings and then 'BOOM,' the virus hits and we are sequestered to our homes. I realize the restrictions have lifted somewhat but the part I miss the most is my church family.

I am thankful that we can at least enjoy worshipping together with our drive-in service and through our video streaming online. We can have small group meetings with proper masking and social distancing. We can call one another and send encouraging letters and cards. (I have done a poor job of that and will strive to do better.) As thankful as I am for technology, worshipping in cars and streaming our live services still leaves me yearning for more. With every Sunday that goes by, I long for the face-to-face gathering of our Bethany fellowship. I read an article recently where the author said, "Missing church should feel like missing family. Because we are family!"

Bethany has always been a caring, friendly church and we will continue to find ways to stay connected. I am convinced it is the connection through worship, caring, and sharing that we will remain strong as a family of believers. I trust and hope that we can eventually feel comfortable enough to come back to worship in our church sanctuary, that we can once again give heavenly hugs and holy handshakes, and that we can worship our God in person as the Bethany family of faith. I challenge all of us to "hang in there." Through God's help, we will overcome this pandemic and will once again join together in person to

fulfill our mission.

I found a poem online I wanted to share with you that reminds us of the activities in our daily lives which we often take for granted.



A COVID POEM by Laura Kelly Fanucci

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way - better
for each other
because of the worst.

**The Food Pantry is need of diapers of all sizes, but especially size 4 and 5.
You can leave at the church or bring on Sunday mornings.**

**Also, if you come in the church and turn lights on,
please make sure they are off before you leave the building and make sure doors are locked.**

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Charge Conference
Saturday, Oct. 24
11:30 am

The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
(540) 234-8880
www.mybethanyumc.org

Susan Reaves, Pastor
757-653-7830
reaves.susan.m@gmail.com

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

November Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 20, 2020

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at
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