



The Echo

February 2021

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Mission Update
- 4 by Kathy Frizzelle
- 5 Financial Update
- 6 Annual Conference Update
- 7 Birthdays & Prayer List

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.

Ash Wednesday Drive-In Imposition of Ashes Wednesday, February 17 12-1 pm or 5:30-6:30 pm

Within weeks, the season of Lent will begin!
Since the world is still in chaos with COVID-19,
the Worship Committee decided that
with the current restrictions, we would not be able to
have our normal Ash Wednesday meal, service and mission project.

So, we'll improvise!

On Wednesday, February 17
you can drive through the parking lot
between the hours of 12-1 pm and 5:30-6:30 pm
to receive the imposition of ashes.

And as a modified mission project,
we will emphasize existing ones ...

The Green Hanger Project (shampoo/conditioner, body wash,
deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes)
and The Food Pantry Diaper Drive (size 4 & 5 are most requested,
but we'll take all sizes along with baby wipes).

If you are able to donate any of these items, bring them with you as
you drive through the parking lot.

With or without donations, we encourage you to come by!

From the Pastor's Desk ...

The Measure of a Life

How do you measure a life? That thought has passed through my mind more than once these last two weeks as I have sifted through all the accumulated stuff from the 50 years my parents lived at 8916 Copenhaver Dr. There are 50 years of check book registers, clipped recipes and family photos, not to mention all the other gathered possessions of a lifetime. It puts me in mind of Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away.

The words of the Teacher point out that life has a rhythm and an established pattern. It is not all weeping nor is it all laughter. It is not all mourning but it is not all dancing either.

Someone asked me the other day what was the most unusual thing I found as I sorted through the items in my parent's house. It definitely has to be the two dozen 35-year-old cockatiel eggs we found in a ceramic crock in the back of a kitchen cupboard. Maude, my parents' pet cockatiel, made a nest in my mother's dishtowel drawer and laid eggs there. I guess my mother hated to throw away those small, perfect eggs.

If I had to say what my mother's legacy was, I would say it was love. She loved her grandchildren and gave them the gift of her attention and time. And although we sometimes tried her patience in our teens and early twenties, she loved her three children as well. There was that time my brother got a dozen parking tickets on the campus of the University of Maryland and thought he didn't have to pay them because he was driving Mom's car. He was wrong.

She applauded our achievements and comforted us in our disappointments and made a home that was always welcoming like most Mom's do. My Dad's legacy is a little more complicated but there was never any doubt that he loved his children and grandchildren. Perhaps love is the best measure of a life.

Pastor Susan

Be the
reason
someone
smiles
today.

Augusta Health is reaching out to the community for help. Since COVID - 19, their caregivers are exhausted and in need of some encouragement and support. August Health has created an email address for the community to write messages of care and support to those frontline workers. If

you would like to send them a "Thank You" or "Hang in There" or a picture or drawing, please email it to them at together@augustahealth.com.

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you at Bethany UMC. The mission team loves you all and appreciates all that you do to help us in our events.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated clothes, shoes, new underwear and socks, and all the personal care items for the Green Hanger Project.

We already have 5 big boxes, 2 33-gal trash bags, 3 15-gal trash bags, and 4 grocery bags full of donated items with more to pick up at the church. I will be making the first trip to Green Hanger the middle of February, so we will pick up from the church one more time before our first delivery. If you have

more items to be donated, please leave them at the church with Green Hanger noted on it somewhere. Thanks! Again. If you have any questions about this mission project, please contact Lori Mooney.

Mission focus of the month: Open Doors. We have helped out with Open Doors in Harrisonburg for the past couple years. If you don't know about this mission, it is the travelling homeless shelter between churches in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They give the homeless a place to stay and feed them for the week. We usually help do Loads of Love and help wash their laundry at this time of year. But, because of COVID-19, we are not able to do that this year. Please make

donations to Open Doors to help give them a place to stay during the cold winter and feed them. Thank you, in advance.

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." - Aristotle

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

Chairs: Lori Mooney, 820-7394
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com
Maggie Rhodes, 383-4752
r.maggiianne@gmail.com

February 14 will be a Communion Sunday!

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, February 14. There will be three ways to receive communion:

1. If you are in the sanctuary, the pre-packaged communion elements will be on a table in the gathering space and you can pick them up on your way out. They should be eaten outside the building. There will be a moment of blessing outside the building for anyone who would like to partake in the bread and juice as one body.
2. For folks in the parking lot, you will receive pre-packaged elements from our check-in person on the way to the parking lot.
3. If you are watching the service from home, have a piece of bread or a cracker on hand, as well as juice, wine or water. They will be blessed along with the elements in the sanctuary.



"This is my
BLOOD
of the
COVENANT,
which is
poured out
for many "

Mark 14:24 NIV

Our Food Pantry by Kathy Frizzelle

The late Jean “Mimi” Dunsmore had a vision to fulfill our church’s Mission Statement to “Connect with God, Grow in our likeness to Jesus Christ, and to Serve our neighbors.”

That vision became a reality in September 2010 when the Bethany UMC Food Pantry opened its doors and first began serving our community and neighbors. Our food pantry – through a partnership with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB) as well as through the generosity of our volunteers, our financial supporters, and our prayer warriors – has blessed many through the immediate meeting of physical needs, in addition to meeting spiritual needs through compassion, friendship, and prayer. A number of our neighbors have even been encouraged enough to begin attending church again! This past year – a year unlike any that we have experienced in recent history - our Bethany food pantry served 1,879 households made up of 6,486 individual human beings. The reasons our neighbors find themselves needing assistance at our food pantry are myriad, but so many offer humbly that they never dreamed to find themselves in need and unable to adequately provide for their families. Their tearful gratitude is heart wrenching at times!

And who could have foreseen the “ripple effect” that Mimi’s vision would eventually have?! A number of our food pantry neighbors have shared how **they** turn around their gratitude for the food they receive and find ways to bless others as well. For instance, one retired, disabled Army vet who picks up food regularly was able to rehab 57 bicycles this past year to donate for Christmas! He commented that he wanted to bless others as he has been blessed through our food pantry.

THANK YOU to you who have been helping to provide for a real need that we are **not** able to obtain through the BRAFB – diapers of all sizes and diaper wipes. Did you know that...

- 1 in 3 US families reports experiencing diaper need.
- 5 million children in the U.S. aged three or younger live in

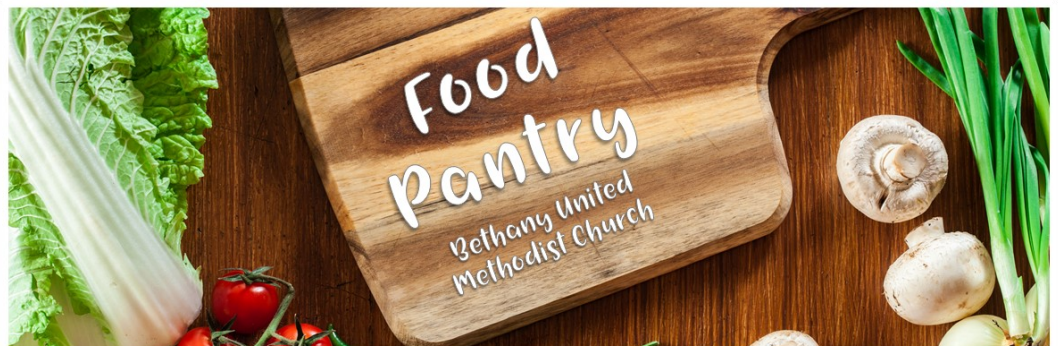
poor or low-income families.

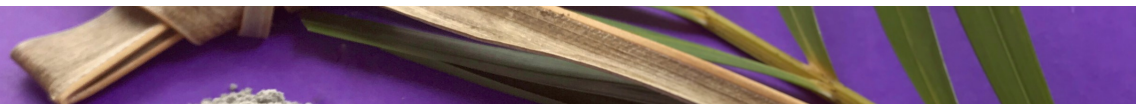
- Infants require up to 12 diapers per day, toddlers about 8.
- Disposable diapers can cost \$70 to \$100 per month per baby.
- No state or federal child safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for the purchase of diapers.
- SNAP and WIC are not available to purchase diapers. They are nutrition programs administered by the Department of Agriculture.
- Without transportation, buying diapers at a convenience store rather than a large “big box” store can significantly increase the monthly cost of diapers.
- Most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities require parents to provide a day’s supply of disposable diapers.

*Babies without clean diapers are exposed to more potential health risks and are less likely accepted into daycares, leaving parents unable to work outside their home. This is an incredible opportunity to follow the commandments of Jesus: to love your neighbor as yourself (Gal. 5:14); to carry each other’s burdens to fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2); and when we “feed the least of these, it is as though we did it for Him” (Matt. 25:40).

Never underestimate the difference YOU can make in the lives of others!

For anyone interested in volunteering on Mondays at the food pantry, or to offer financial support, or even to just find out more about the food pantry operation, please contact Mrs. Pat Lynn (PatLynn42@yahoo.com) or Kathy Frizzelle (540-421-0941).





Financial Update by Cindy Kite

Finally! 2020 has come to an end!! I have so missed going to concerts, ballgames, family gatherings, dinner with friends, church and my church family!! I miss hugs and handshakes! I miss catching up with y'all on Sunday mornings to find out what's going on in your life, with your family. Sharing the happy and sad times. Laughing and crying with you. Celebrating new births, birthdays, and other special occasions. It makes me sad to think about how many of you I haven't talked to in almost a year!! I pray that 2021 will bring us back to some kind of normalcy!

As the new year begins, the old one has to be reconciled and closed. W-2 forms printed, taxes need to be sent to the state and federal governments, giving statements need mailed and year-end financial statements printed. As I work on all these things, I want to share with you how the yearend financial statement looks for Bethany.

Revenues:

Total General Fund Giving	\$213,319.22
SBA PPP Loan	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	233,319.22

Expenses:

Total Salaries	\$112,031.16
----------------	--------------

District Ministries

District	\$ 5,340.00
Apportionments	\$26,568.00
Conference Expenses	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total District Ministries	\$31,908.00

Church Office	\$ 8,392.36
Building & Maintenance	\$32,007.84
Ministry Programs	\$ 6,062.97
Mission Outreach	<u>\$ 5,669.00</u>
Total Other Ministries	\$52,132.17

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$196,071.33
-----------------------	---------------------

We paid all Priority 1 apportionments to the conference, along with the District apportionments. All expenses for 2020 were paid and there was nothing owing at the end of 2020. Halleluiah! We made it through a rough year with

your help!! Thank you for continuing to support Bethany and it's ministries! Here are a few other ministries you supported:

Adult Mission Fund	\$ 600.00
Backpack Pals	\$ 1,603.90
Friends of Barnabas	\$ 130.00
Food Pantry	\$16,695.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$ 4,472.54
Youth Mission Fund	\$ 984.25

If you would like a more detailed year-end financial statement, please contact the office. They will be available upon request once the Finance Committee and Church Council approves them.

Now, let's talk about the new year! I wish there was better news to report, but ... the year is starting out very slow. The first four Sunday's giving totaled \$6,855. With our 2021 budget set at \$221,259.00, we should be collecting \$4,254.98 each week to meet that budget, which makes us already behind by \$10,164.92.

Week 4 - January 24, 2021		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		17,019.92
Where We Are		<u>6,855.00</u>
Deficit of		(10,164.92)
Net Percentage		-59.7%
Expenses as of 1/24/21		9,618.61

As your treasurer, and as a member, these numbers are worrisome. When we get back to "normal" church (and we will), and our ministries start back up, we will have to pick and choose which ministries we can support with our finances. Please prayerfully consider giving to Bethany! For those who do give on a regular basis, thank you! For those of you who aren't coming to church, which makes it so much easier to forget about giving, please begin giving on a regular basis again! Your church depends on YOU!

Thank you for another year of supporting me as your church treasurer and office administrator. It is my pleasure to continue serving Bethany any way I can!

Virginia Annual Conference Report by Rosemary Wagoner

The 238th Virginia Annual Conference met virtually this year. The theme of the 2020 Annual Conference was “See All the People.” Most of this year’s Conference was focused on items needing votes. Due to the conference being virtual and several ways to attempt the voting online, the conference was briefer and did not have the usual amount of content. One report that didn’t require a vote was the report from COSROW (Commission on the Status and Role of Women). In their report they talked about their Thursdays in Black campaign. This campaign is to work towards a world without rape and violence to women.

The Cabinet is working on a series of videos on race relations. The cabinet is made up of all the District Superintendents around the Conference.

The work of the Henry Fork Service Center was highlighted during a Glory Sighting.

During the Conference Lay Leader’s report he said we need more conversations with all of the people and that we need to be “Christ to all the people.” Martha Stokes was elected as the new Conference Lay Leader. Martha stressed that we’re the ones being sent to lead God’s people. Ninety-nine percent of the conference is made up of laity. She said we are called to lead.

The United Methodist Family Services is celebrating 120 years of serving children, youth and families. They also help with mental health needs.

Apportionments are going to be down by 6% and expenses are also trending down.

If anyone would like to view a report in more depth, I will be glad to share the Book of Reports with you. The 2021 Annual Conference is supposed to occur in the middle of June in Hampton ... if it can be held in-person!



Augusta Health will be holding Grief Support Programs January - March 2021.

There are different programs for adults and for youth.

All grief support services require pre-registration and are currently being offered online via WebEx video conference.

To check out programs, times and dates, please go to the Augusta Health website.

Prayer Concern Updates



Lloyd Meadows is currently going through chemo, which is making him very tired. He goes for an MRI and a doctor's appointment on Feb. 4. Susan asks that you keep them in your prayers and pray specifically for shrinkage of the tumor or at least no progression!

Dani Martlock's father, Wayne Marklock, is currently receiving hospice care after his stroke. Dani says as he approaches the final stages of life, he is resting comfortable at home.

Jean Radocha's daughter, Donna, has requested prayers for Jean as her health continues to decline.

February

1st Jackie Dunsmore	9th Amanda Hughes
Megan Kile	10th Bobbie Meek
2nd Reid Hill	Lindsay Williams
3rd Gary Ruleman	13th Kelli Huffer
4th Pam Lynn	14th Chuck McCarty
Ron Castle	15th Lisa Cox
5th Scott Herron	Laura Hittie
6th Dylan Snyder	16th Rose Campbell
11th Paige Crawford	17th Jared Kile
13th Rebecca Castle	18th Sidney Moyer
Suzanne Mullins	19th Gary Byard
Harrell	23rd Cheryl Richards
14th Bradley Dunsmore	25th Camden Herron
18th Laura Lucas	26th Barbara Long
19th Natalie Hiner	27th Tim Schnittger
21st Sandra Campbell	

March

2nd Jan Gorden
5th Ken Elkins
7th Becky McCarty
8th Ken Shifflett
9th Marguerite McDonald



If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at office.bethany@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Members

Tom & Jan Gorden, Lloyd Meadows
Judy Faby, Audrey Bradshaw
Jean Radocha

Extended Family

Tom Lee - former Bethany pastor
Margaret K, Donna D, Edward P. - food pantry neighbors
Kay Phillips - sister of Linda Byers
Wayne Martlock - father of Dani Martlock

For those of you who remember Rev. Tom Lee and would like to send him a card, his address is:
26893 Fairfax Drive,
King George, VA, 22485.



We extend Christian sympathy to Pastor Susan and Rev. Mike Reaves on the sudden passing of Mike's father, Harry B. Reaves, on Monday, Jan. 25. If you would like to send a card, the address is ... 47 Round Hill School Road, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437.



Congratulations to Heidi and Kyle Morris on the birth of their son, Baker James, born on Monday, Jan. 18, weighing in at 6 lb 11 oz and 19.5" long.

Proud grandparents are Amy and Donald Michael. If you would like to send them a card, the address is ... 3271 Rockfish Road, Crimora, VA 24431.

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org

and the
greatest
of these is
love



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

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

March Newsletter Deadline: Feb. 20, 2021

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com

Webmaster: bethanyumc.website@gmail.com



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

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