



The Echo

October 2021

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.

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us
with the changing of the seasons.

As we embrace these autumn months,
may the earlier setting
of the sun remind us
to take time to rest.
May the crunch of the leaves
beneath our feet
remind us of the brevity
of this earthly life.

May the steam of our breath
in the cool air remind us
that it is you who give us
your breath of life.

May the scurrying of the squirrels and
the migration of the birds remind us
that you call us to follow your will.

We praise you for the goodness forever and ever. Amen.



From the Pastor's Desk

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:30-37

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

THE ONE WHO
showed
mercy
GO AND DO
the same
LUKE 10:37

One of my favorite religious authors is Eckhart Tolle. I have found great wisdom in his writings. One of the things he writes about is the spiritual nature of "relationships" with other people. On this topic, one of my favorite quotes is the following: "If her past were your past, her pain your pain, her level of consciousness your level of consciousness, you would think and act exactly as she does. With this realization comes forgiveness, compassion and peace." ("Stillness Speaks", Eckhart Tolle)

In other words, folks can't really help being who they are. And keeping this in mind might help us get along better with those who think and act differently than us. It might help us to be more forgiving, understanding, and compassionate with others. Especially those we may disagree with.

This is an important thing for us to remember in the United Methodist Church. Because we are a "big tent" denomination we naturally have a variety of opinions on different subjects. And one of these subjects is just how far to take this whole neighbor thing. We seem to be still asking the age-old question, "who is my neighbor?"

Which brings us to the story of the Good Samaritan (see above). A text note in my NIV Study Bible states that, in the story of the Good Samaritan "It is significant that the person Jesus commended was neither the religious leader nor the lay

associate, but a hated foreigner. Jews viewed Samaritans as half-breeds, both physically and spiritually. Samaritans and Jews practiced open hostility, but Jesus asserted that love knows no national boundaries." Love should know no national boundaries, nor any other kinds of boundaries for that matter. That is not just my opinion. It is a matter of record in scripture (aka The Holy Word of God).

Have you ever noticed how many stories Jesus tells about outsiders being in, insiders being out, the first last, and the last first? That's why some have referred to this topsy-turvy world as "The Upside Down Kingdom".

One thing we can be sure of. Jesus was all about breaking down barriers and not building them up. He ate with sinners and tax collectors. He touched lepers. He rubbed spit in a blind man's eye. He healed on the sabbath. He talked to women (even Samaritan women!). He wasn't very good at following the social norms of his day. He always put LOVE first. He always put the people first. He treated each one (regardless of their baggage) as if they were sacred children of God. And they were! As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to do the same.

Grace & Peace!

Pastor Dan

Stewardship: It's More Than Giving Money by Randy Roller

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4: 10)

When you see the word ‘stewardship,’ you might think, “Oh boy, here’s another article about giving money to the church!” Yes, money is important. We need it to keep the lights on and pay our pastor but stewardship is more than giving dollars. As the Bethany church family, we believe that through our relationship with Jesus Christ, we desire to serve and love our neighbor.

How do we respond to God’s call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God’s love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care – our time, our talents, and our treasures – to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes. It is really a heart issue – a longing to offer everything we are and have to Him.

In his essay entitled, *Leadership is Stewardship*, Bill Peel suggests there are four important principles about biblical stewardship we should understand:

1. **The principle of ownership.** In Psalm 24, the psalmist begins with: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” This principle is fundamental to stewardship. God owns everything. We are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf. C. S. Lewis in his book *Mere Christianity* put it this way: “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every

moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”

2. **The principle of responsibility.** Mr. Peel explains that although God gives us “all things richly to enjoy,” nothing is ours or really belongs to us. God owns everything and we are responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.
3. **The principle of accountability.** A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities, and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given to us. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25), we need to take advantage of every opportunity to be good stewards of that which God has entrusted to us.
4. **The principle of reward.** It goes without saying that we do not practice stewardship merely for the sake of getting a reward. We are good stewards because Christ has placed it in our hearts to do so. In Colossians 3: 23-24, Paul writes: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Mr. Peel goes on to state that the Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the master’s will with the master’s resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next. That’s something to ponder.

As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important. From this viewpoint, everything we do connects with what God is doing in the world. Let us be faithful stewards of all God has given us while growing in our faith and ability to be used by God to advance His Kingdom.



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

October? Where has this year gone? Time just keeps going on by. Hope everyone is staying happy and healthy. Please take care of yourself.

Planning on doing Trunk or Treat at the end of the month, hope you can plan to help in some way for this great community event. It will be held at the Community Center. We will need donations of candy and volunteers to help with the games, and making up trunks, too. You will be hearing more about this soon.

This is the time of year that we start gearing up for the holiday season that's fast approaching. In a couple of weeks, you will see the envelopes out for the Apple Tree Project. You pick an envelope with a child's name, age, and gift that they want. Kingsway Ministries gives us this list from incarcerated parents that need help giving their kids gift while they are away. We have worked with Kingsway Ministries for many years in providing presents to these dear children. There are lots of churches and organizations that help provide this service. So, be on the lookout for this mission project.

APPLE TREE PROJECT



Next up, we will have a fundraiser to help the Gideons collect money to purchase bibles to help spread the word of God. When we think about Christmas time, we think of presents. This will be a way for our youth to purchase a present for God. You give \$5 (which buys a Gideon regular bible or 3 small pocket size bibles) and you will receive an ornament that you put your name on and place on the small Christmas tree that we will have in the

narthex. You can ask your family and friends for the \$5 donation to help purchase Bibles. We want to see how full we can make this tree of these Gideon ornaments.

On Saturday, December 4th, we have signed up to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market. The times are from 10am - 6pm. If you would like to sign up for an hour time slot, just let me know. If you can't do that day, then just contact me and we can find a day, time, and place that works for you to sign up and ring the bell for such a great cause.



We are still taking gently used clothing donations for the Green Hanger Project all year. Make sure to label your box or bag with "Green Hanger". No holes or stains, please. You can also donate personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, pads, etc. Thanks to everyone who is donating their used clothes. This is such an amazing place to help. They are now called Embrace-A Center for Community. You can look them up online at embracewaynesboro.org.

Mission Project of the Month: Kingsway Ministries. Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been offering services to the incarcerated, ex-offenders, and their families since 1983. In addition to services provided within the prisons and jails, Kingsway provides a safe haven for released inmates to come for help at the office in Harrisonburg, Virginia. We help Kingsway with

buying Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents through the Apple Tree Gifts. We also helped them, pre-COVID, when we all ran around the gym, grabbing cards and stuffing them into paper bags for those in jail to have cards to mail out to their loved ones. Please make a donation to Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach, if you are able.

God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him. – Hudson Taylor

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

Chair: Lori Mooney
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com
540-820-7394

Thank You!

Thanks to our
Youth Mission Team
for the recent worship service
and presentation of their
summer mission experience.
We are proud of your efforts to
help others and your
willingness to serve.
Special appreciation to
Lorna Frizzelle
for your organization of the
trip and the service.

WE LOVE OUR YOUTH!!



Trunk R TREAT



Sunday, October 24 | 4-6 pm

Weyers Cave Community Center



FUN, FOOD, GAMES
for ALL

FREE ADMISSION

Wear Your Halloween Costume!



A Safe, Family-Friendly Event
All are Welcome!

Sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church

**We will be accepting non-perishable food
items for our Food Pantry!**



Trunk or Treat

The Trunk or Treat Planning Team met and are going forward with planning our Third Annual Trunk or Treat for Sunday, October 24 at the Weyers Cave Community Center between 4-6 pm. If we have to cancel at the last minute due to COVID restrictions, we will do that.

And being as COVID conscious as possible, we will have to do things a bit different than in the past. Instead of asking our folks to make baked goods for our Cupcake/Cookie Walk, we are asking you to donate pre-packaged store bought cookies, miniature cupcakes, muffins, small cakes, pies, etc. Please sign up at the Trunk or Treat table in the foyer with what you plan to donate so we'll know how much we will have for our Cupcake/Cookie Walk. You can bring

your donations in beginning Wednesday, Oct. 20.

We are also asking if anyone has contacts to get donations of gifts cards, such as Smiley's Ice Cream, Kline's Dairy Bar, Chic-fil-A, Wendy's Frosties, McDonalds, Dairy Queen Blizzards, etc., to please contact Cindy Kite or Jackie Dunsmore.

We also need lots of working hands and feet the day of the event. We anticipate having approximately 400 people come since it is at the WW Community Center and will be publicized within the community. This is an outreach event to our community to come together. It has been a while since people have had that opportunity. And we want to give them a safe, family-friendly

Trunk or TREAT

place to bring their children. So, please volunteer to help! A sign up sheet for volunteers is also at the Trunk or Treat table.

And the last thing we ask of you is to **DECORATE A TRUNK!** We will need lots of trunks for kids to visit so we can keep them as socially distant as possible. There are a lot of ideas for trunks on Pinterest if you need some help for decorating ideas! We ask you to also sign up if you plan to decorate a trunk. Trunks will need to be at the community center by 3 pm.

We need **YOU** to make this a successful event for the children in our community!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

5th Sunday Sharing

On Sunday, Sept. 26, we had a Time of Sharing by members and a hymn sing in place of our normal worship service. It was a really good experience and people enjoyed it tremendously. If you missed it, we would encourage you to go to the church's Facebook page or the website to listen to it.

So, on fifth Sundays, we want to continue our Time of Sharing by church members. Do you have a personal experience, story, poem, song, instrumental number, skit or even a joke to share? If so, you are invited to participate! Our next fifth Sunday will be October 31. Please consider sharing something meaningful to you that just might lift hearts and spirits of others. Please contact Jackie Dunsmore if you would like to participate!



We are in for a treat on Sunday, October 24!
Dale Roller's band, Southern Hospitality,
will be singing during the worship service!



HAPPY Fall Y'all



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Dan has not been with us long, but already he fits right in and feels like family. Many of you had the opportunity to talk with him and get to know him. We look forward to his guitar and singing. If you have not had the chance to chat with Pastor Dan, reach out to him and introduce yourself. He has a lot of names and faces to remember. Let's show our appreciation by sending a card or giving a gift or gift card. We are so fortunate to have him and appreciate all he does for Bethany. If you want to mail a card, his address is Dan Purdom, 805 Buckingham Street, Staunton, VA 24401 or we will have a basket for cards in the foyer.



Young at Hearts

Young at Hearts will meet at O'Neil's in Harrisonburg at 12 noon for their October get-together. Anyone 55 and over, and still "young at heart" is invited and encouraged to join this lively bunch for lunch. There will be good food, fellowship and lots of laughing. Please contact Carolyn Swartz if you plan to attend.

Caring Cards

Caring Cards will meet on Monday, October 4 at 10 am. Please note the time and day change! After October, meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am. We invite you to come join us!



All Saints Day Sunday, November 7

We look forward to this special service when we celebrate and remember individuals in our church family that we have loved and lost in the past year. Please email (office.bethany@gmail.com) or call (234-8880) Cindy if you have someone to be remembered.

Bible Study

Barbara Somers will facilitate and host a 10-week Bible study "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" beginning mid October. This is a very uplifting study. This group is limited to eight participants. Please contact Barbara at 540-421-4900 if you would like to join this group.



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
11th Amy Purdom
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
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



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

October is Stewardship Month! Stewardship, as we have learned over the past few weeks, is about more than just money! Although, money is part of it. We are to give of our time, talents and gifts. That means that we need to give our time and use our gifts to honor God and to bless others. All our talents are gifts from God. All that we have is a gift from God. We can be grateful for what God has given us and give back to God. Give because you want to, not because that is what you're supposed to do. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!

Our church family shows their stewardship in many different ways. And you have been very generous with your gifts to the church. We are only 4.8% behind our projected budget for the year. Yes, we are behind ... but, it's still good news! Usually after summer ends, we are 15-18% behind our budget. Good job my friends, good job!!

September 26 - Week 39		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		165,944.22
Where We Are		157,940.26
Deficit of		8,003.99
Net Percentage		-4.8%

Don't Worry, Be Happy

Laugh and the world laughs with you.
Cry and you get all wet.

Keep smiling, and make people wonder
what you've been up to.

Show me an optimist, and I'll show you
a happy-chondriac.

We don't stop playing when we get old
We get old when we stop playing.

When you can laugh at yourself,
you'll never run out of things to laugh about.

If you forgot to start the day with a smile,
start practicing for tomorrow.



Charge Conference 2021

**Our Charge Conference will be held on
Monday, October 25 at 7 pm 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 the office by
Thursday, please don't wait until the day of
the meeting! We will be voting on the 2022
budget and the slate of church officers and
committee chairs.**

Happy Fall

Let us not become weary in
doing good, for at the proper
time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.

GALATIANS 6:9



OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 10 am - Caring Cards  National Taco day	5 12 pm - Young at Hearts 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	6	7	8 	9
10  PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY	11  HAPPY Columbus Day	12	13	14 6:30 pm - Trunk or Treat Meeting	15	16 HAPPY BOSS' DAY! 
17	18	19	20 November Newsletter Articles Due	21  Have A Beautiful Blessed Day!	22	23 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
24 Southern Hospitality Sings 4-6 pm - Trunk or Treat	25 7 pm - Charge Conference by Zoom	26  Happy Pumpkin Day!	27	28	29  National Cat Day	30
31 Fifth Sunday "Time of Sharing"	 Trunk or Treat					



Please be in prayer for ...

Members:

Lloyd Meadows, Jean Radocha, Johnnie Barr, Carolyn Roller, Audrey Bradshaw, Laura Lucas, Jan Gorden, Faye Youmans, Libby Riddle, Kevin Stroop

Extended Members:

family of Duane Shaw - friends of Leslie Wagoner, Teresa & Brad - daughter and son-in-law of Sharon Northrop, sister of Barbara Somers, Burke family - friends of Kevin & Tara Stroop, Charles Stoke - grandfather of Amber Casey

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Trunk or Treat
Sunday, Oct. 24
4-6 pm

The Echo

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

November Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 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