



The Echo

December 2021

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

Advent at Bethany

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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.

Holy Communion – Sunday, December 12

Family Christmas Program – Sunday, December 19

"Where is Christmas?" featuring our children, youth, skits, lots of carols, and special music. Come celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be a part of this special worship experience. A light Christmas finger food brunch will follow. A wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors!

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for items needed for the brunch. We need breakfast casseroles, ham & sausage biscuits, fruit, pastries, cheese and cheeseballs and crackers. And if you can help set up and clean up, please contact Cindy Kite.

Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24

4 pm - Our Family Christmas Eve Service will be a brief child-friendly service for the young at heart!

9 pm - Our Traditional Candlelight Service will feature carols and scripture readings of the season, special music and candle light.

*Each Sunday will include lots of seasonal music, drama
and other special moments.
Please join us for coffee, tea and snacks before or after the service
in the fellowship hall.*

From the Pastor's Desk

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:8-20)

There were all kinds of characters hanging around at the birth of Jesus. There were shepherds, angels, and wise men. Of course, there were Mary and Joseph, and probably a bunch of assorted animals as well. At least that's the story that scripture tells. When I was growing up, I remember the exciting activities of getting things ready for Christmas at our house. It was always a family adventure to go to a local tree farm to pick out (after much debate), cut and bring home a live tree. We would put up the tree and then decorate it with lights and ornaments and tinsel. We would hang our stockings. We would set out other various decorations.

One of my favorite tasks was setting up our manger scene. I remember my sisters and I playing games with the characters in our crèche, acting out the Christmas story as told by scripture. I was reminded of this the other day as I set up the manger scene that we inherited from Amy's

folks. If you just happened by you might notice something strange about this particular manger scene. There is one character who doesn't really seem to belong. He is a Scottish Bagpiper complete with kilt. He was with the set when we got it, so I don't know when or how the bagpiper was first included in the set. But he always has a part to play in our scene, even though he doesn't really belong. When you think about it this seems perfectly appropriate. Jesus was all about including outsiders and strangers and those who just really didn't fit in. Just like our Scottish Bagpiper. This is just one more way that we are blessed to be a blessing to others during this Christmas season!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Dan





Simplify the Season

by Maggie Huffer

All too often, we find ourselves scrambling to get gifts bought, plans made, meals cooked, and cookies baked. What if we all slowed down and took in the little moments of the season? Instead of worry, anxiety, stress, and the feeling of being overwhelmed, what if we just stopped to realize how much we have already been blessed with?

For me, as a wife, mom, sister, daughter, and teacher, the holidays have always been busy, stressful, and expensive. It's time for that to change. I want to embrace the beauty of the Christmas season instead of counting down the days I have left. So, this December, I'm making some promises to myself and to God.

1. Notice the small stuff--the joy in my children's faces as they sing Christmas songs in the car, the thought and time spent on the Christmas cards we receive, the sweetness of my husband reading *The Polar Express* to our daughters. The little things...
2. Daily prayer--for peace, healing, renewal, and good will to all.
3. Give back and give thanks--simple enough, right?
4. Love myself--I am human, and quite frankly, life is hard. No one expects perfection, so why do I? This season can magnify the feeling that we need to be someone we aren't. God has me in his hands and loves me for who I am, and for that, I am grateful. I will love myself too.

Simply put, I am going to simplify my season. I'm going to take it all in and enjoy myself, my family, and my Bethany family. Maybe you want to simplify your season as well? Do it!

Merry Christmas, my friends.



Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

It is December and I wish you all a very, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Can you believe that we are already here at the end of another year? Bring on 2022.

A big THANK YOU to all those who bought gifts for the Apple Tree project. The gifts were dropped off and they were so appreciative of all our help.

We are now collecting money for the Gideons. We have a Christmas tree placed out in the narthex and if you donate \$5 to the Gideons (for them to buy bibles and spread the word of Jesus), then you will get an ornament that you can write your name on and hang it on the tree. We appreciate all donations for this worthwhile mission event. We all want to spread the good word of Jesus Christ. Let's see how many ornaments we can get on this tree.

The sign up for the bell ringing for the Salvation Army at the Shenandoah Heritage Market on Saturday, Dec. 4th is out and halfway done. If you don't make the list and would like another day or time to ring the bell, please let me know. They are always looking for

help during this season.

On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we will be doing a mission-oriented Sunday. During the children's service, they will be making cookies to share with our food pantry neighbors. We will be taking donations for the military and Mark and Jackie will be mailing the box of goodies to their son-in-law for him to share with all his fellow soldiers. They would like for you to donate: chapstick, personal packs of tissues, hard candies, mints, tictacs, gum, jerky, or small beef sticks. We will be taking donations for the refugees from Afghanistan that are being housed at Massanetta Springs. We are asking for personal items, like soap, shampoo, brush/combs, band-aids, sanitary pads, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, and/or Target or Walmart gift cards. We will be making sandwiches and providing some soup to take to the local fire departments and rescue squads. If you would like to make some cookies or soup at home and bring that in, please contact me and let me know. We hope everyone will help in some way.

The Christmas play will be on Sunday, December 19th and we hope everyone will get to enjoy that. It is always fun to watch and see what will happen.

Mission Project of the Month: our very

own church needs some help. So, I am letting you know that we are starting a fund for a new roof and a new boiler. Our church is getting older (just like some of us) and is in need of some serious repairs. These 2 projects most likely will have to be done next year. Yes, both at the same time and you know what that means.... Money, money, money. So, if you would like to make an extra donation this month or maybe at the Christmas Eve service, donate your money with a note saying roof/boiler project. For us to help others, we need to take care of ourselves first. If the plane is going down, please put on your emergency mask first before helping others. Or the boat, put on your life jacket first and then help others.

Merry Christmas to you all. Bethany thanks you for being part of our congregation. Take care of each other and see you in the new year.

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." —Vern McLellan

Chair: Lori Mooney, 540.820.7394
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com

The BUMS Christmas Post Office is officially OPEN!!

Want to spread some old fashioned Christmas cheer? Send Christmas greetings through the BUM Post Office. Postage is a donation of .25 cents per card or whatever donation you want to make which goes to the BUM Mission Fund for their summer mission trip. Please have greetings to the church by Sunday, Dec. 26. You can place your cards in the appropriate basket in the fellowship hall.

And don't forget to check the baskets for cards sent to you by your church family!!

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



Time & Talents

Last month we heard sermons about identifying and sharing the talents that God gave each of us. And yes, God gave each of you talents!! He didn't miss anyone! There are many ways to share your talents with your Bethany family!!



If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, talk to Jackie Dunsmore or Marguerite McDonald about joining the Praise and Worship Band or provide special music one Sunday during the service. I know they would love to hear from you. Give it a try. There's no commitment unless you want there to be!!

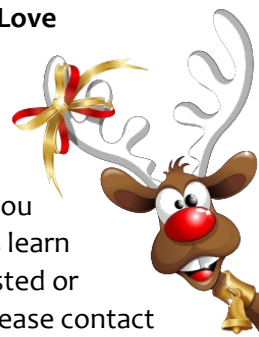
If you're a talker and enjoy meeting people, you are perfect to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings. Be there to greet folks, Bethany folks and visitors, with a hug or handshake if appropriate, and a warm, inviting smile. Talk with them, welcome them and aid them if they are a visitor. See, you CAN do this!! Just go and sign up for a Sunday on the sign up sheet in the foyer.



Do you enjoy a warm beverage and some fellowship before or after the worship service? If so, we need folks to make and set out coffee on Sunday mornings along with some snacks. Coffee making instructions are in the kitchen and help can be found to give you a hand until you learn to conquer the coffee maker! Coffee and snacks will be provided. Sign up once a month, once a quarter, or just once. Even the small things shared with your church family means so much!! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Do you enjoy being around children? Love to hear their chatter and laughing?

We have the perfect place for you to volunteer! Children's Church is looking for teachers and helpers. All lesson plans and activities are planned. You just need to show up and help the kids learn and make their crafts. If you're interested or would like a little more information, please contact Beth Metcalfe at bmetcalfe10@gmail.com or sign up in the foyer.



Do you like technology? There is always need for help to run the PowerPoint slides with the scripture and song lyrics on Sunday mornings. Plus, help is needed to make sure the service is being broadcast on Facebook for those who still enjoy watching from home. You can talk to Dale Roller or Dani (Martlock) deHart.

There are many more ways to share your talents with your church family. If you are interested in sharing a talent, please contact Pastor Dan or Julie Ritchie. They will get you plugged in where you will fit and feel comfortable. Well ... sometimes you might be asked to step out of your comfort zone!! But only if you want to challenge yourself!

V O L N T E E R
all that's missing is U!

Hanging of the Greens Appreciation!!

Thank you to our children and youth for preparing and serving a wonderful lasagna dinner for all those who attended Hanging of the Greens on November 28. It was DELICIOUS! Thanks to Mark and Carla Whitecotton for putting up the Chrismon tree. Thanks to Mae Houff for reminding all of us kids that each Chrismon ornaments has a special meaning. Special thanks to all who came out to help decorate the tree and begin the Advent season!



Bethany UMC Officers and Leaders 2022

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Jane Elkins, chair

Dave Williams, Lori Mooney and Bridgett Crawford, Laura Lucas, Steve Schofield

Lay Member to the Annual Conference: Rosemary Wagoner & Lay Leader: Julie Ritchie

Nominations & Lay Leadership: Lay Leader: Julie Ritchie & Pastor: Dan Purdom, chairs

Randy Roller, Eddie Moyer, Nancy Colvin, Mike Huffer, Mae Houff, Rebekah Castle

Trustee Committee: Scott Williams, chair

Joe Meek, Brenda Hiner, Gary Lucas, Stephen Metcalfe, Jerry Sheets, Mark Dunsmore, Nancy Colvin

Finance Committee: Mark Dunsmore, chair

Financial Secretary: Jeff Ritchie, Treasurer: Cindy Kite, Lay Member to the Conference: Rosemary Wagoner, Stewardship

Chair: Randy Roller, Council Chair: Elizabeth Williams, Lay Leader: Julie Ritchie, Trustee Representative: Scott Williams,

SPPCR Representative: Jane Elkins

Worship Committee: Jackie Dunsmore, chair

Music Director: Marguerite McDonald, Musician: Dale Roller, Member at Large: Mary Beth Schwab, Secretary: Cindy Kite,

Technology Director: Dani Marklock

Church Council Officers 2022

Council Chair: Elizabeth Williams

Lay Leader: Julie Ritchie

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Rosemary Wagoner

Finance Chair: Mark Dunsmore

Church Treasurer: Cindy Kite

Youth Leader:

Sunday School Superintendent:

Women's Ministries: Cindy Kite

United Methodist Men: Eddie Moyer

Children's Ministries: Beth Metcalfe

District Steward: Rosemary Wagoner

Audit Committee Chair: Mary Beth Schwab

Church Council Members 2021

Welcome/Evangelism: Kathy Kile

Communications: Cindy Kite

Website Team: Pam Roller, Dani Martlock, Laura Lucas

Young Adult Member: Jordan Dunsmore

Youth Member:

Small Group Coordinator:

Missions: Lori Mooney

Food Pantry Representative: Jeff Ritchie

Visitation Team Representative: Geneva Burns

Food & Fellowship:

Nursery:

Membership Secretary: Stanley Houff & Cindy Kite

Newsletter: Cindy Kite

Disaster Relief Coordinator: Rosemary Wagoner

District Steward: Rosemary Wagoner

Bereavement Coordinator:

Prayer List

Members: Lloyd Meadows, Johnnie Barr, Carolyn Roller, Audrey Bradshaw, Jan Gorden, Libby Riddle, Barbara Long, Hazel Truslow, Carolyn Swartz, Leslie Wagoner

Extended Members: grandson of Kevin Stroop, Ray Miller - friend of Randy Kite, Michelle - daughter of Diana Eicher, father of Tara Stroop, Jacqueline Peery - niece of Kevin & Tara Stroop

Our Shut-Ins: Judy Faby, Helen Figgins, Jean Houff, Charlene Michael

Financial Update ... but not really by Cindy Kite

So, okay, this is where the current financial update should be; however, it is not up-to-date as of today. But I wanted to go ahead and send the newsletter out since it is already very, very late. I am so sorry for the lateness of this newsletter. Excuses? Yeah, I've got some. From severe migraines to fractured ribs. Hopefully I'm on the mend and 2022 will be a good year. Not only for myself, but for all.

The finances look really good for all the church has been through in the past two years. We are less than 10% behind our projected budget for 2021. And we will start January off with some cash in the bank. This is all because of you and your generosity. You have blessed Bethany with your giving. Myself and the Finance Committee thank you for being gracious and happy givers!! We love our church and want to see many good things happen in 2022! That can only be with your continued generosity.

If you want to make a yearend donation to Bethany, it needs to be at the church or postmarked by December 31 to post on your 2021 giving statement. Let's finish strong! And then let's begin the new year with a bang!

December Birthdays

1st Jeff Ritchie &
Gerald Fulton

3rd Kristen Kile

5th Annie Roller

9th Hudson Dunsmore

16th Shawn Cook

19th Layne Shifflett

20th Elizabeth Williams

21st Amber Casey

23rd Jane Elkins

25th Alexander Carter

26th Garrett Roller

29th Jake Frizzelle

15th Sharon Northrop

17th Rhylan Metcalfe

18th Abe Smith

21st Barbara Miller

Pam Roller

Randy Roller

27th Jean Houff

28th Peggy Lucas

30th Lloyd Meadows

January Birthdays

1st Kim Moyer

7th MacKenzie Crawford
Jake Dunsmore

8th Krisalyn Mooney

11th Liam Howard

12th Billy Ryan

13th Abby Michael

15th Mark Whitecotton



You feel good
& when you feel
good, YOU do good
& when YOU do good
it Reminds others
of what joy feels like
& it just 
might inspire
them to do
the same.

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Family Christmas Program
Sunday, Dec. 19
9:30 am

The Echo

"The Echo"

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Dan Purdom Pastor
540-292-4028
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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Perry, Sexton

January Newsletter Deadline: Dec. 20, 2022
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