

July 2022

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.



Oh say does that
star Spangled banner
yet wave o'er the land
of the free and the home
of the Brave

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ. I truly believe that God has brought me to Bethany UMC and the Weyers Cave community, to learn and serve alongside of each and every one of you. I had a pastor back in my hometown who always used to say to his congregation, "We Are All We Got." What he meant by this is that we, as the body of Christ, only have each other when it comes to supporting one another as we live a life that is pleasing and honoring to the Lord. We have to love one another, keep each other accountable, and look out for one another. From what I have heard, the Bethany community does not have an issue with this; and for that I would say, well done!

My hope and prayer that over the next few days, weeks, and months that you all will be able to see me as your pastor, brother-in-Christ, and a fellow believer on this journey with you. I have spent the last week in Hampton Roads, at the Virginia Annual Conference and then up to Ocean City, Maryland for some much needed Sabbath time with my fiancé, Ashley. I left Hampton feeling filled of the Spirit, and energized and excited for the future of the United Methodist Church, and God's holy and beloved community. I left Ocean City feeling renewed in God's love and grace; and ready to hit the ground running.

I would like to leave you with my own daily challenge that comes from Galatians 6:9-10, and it reads, "Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll



And let us not grow
weary while doing good,
for in due season
we shall reap if we
do not lose heart.

Galatians 6:9

have a harvest if we don't give up. So then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith."

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Blaine Thomas

**Join us on Sunday, July 10,
after the worship service,
for a reception in the fellowship hall
to welcome Pastor Blaine to Bethany.**

Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

Happy 4th of July!! Can you believe we are already into the second part of this year? Time marches on. A new season for the church, once again, since we are welcoming our new Pastor, Blaine Thomas. Welcome to Bethany and all that we have to offer. We hope you enjoy our community and want to stay for many years. Peace and blessings to you, Pastor Blaine.

I need to inform you of a situation. Here it goes. Well, you know how we received 217 pairs of shoes for Soles for Souls during March and April. So, at the end of April I contacted Stephanie, my rep, and she sent me the information for drop off. There was a drop off in Charlottesville or Lexington. The Charlottesville drop-off was open Monday through Friday from 9-5 and you had to make an appt. Looking at the month of May, I knew I was going to be busy with work, graduation stuff, and tennis tournaments. So, I said that the first part of June, I will make an appointment and drop off the shoes. During the first week of May, I received an email from Stephanie saying that she was taking another job and my new contact was Kelly. A few days later, we got an email saying the Richmond office was closing at the end of the month. I come home from a mini vacation the beginning of June and start looking up

the information for drop off. I can't find anything in a 100-mile radius except for a Chantilly location. I contact Kelly and she informs me on 6/15 that all locations near me closed except for Chantilly. She informed me that Zappos would cover the cost of shipping if we would box and send them out. I know these weighed a lot and informed her that it would cost a lot to ship these out and asked if we had someone local that wanted them, if we could donate to them. I contacted Jenelle and she was at conference, but said we were an answer to a prayer. They are having a back-to-school event in July and hardly ever have shoes, so she was super excited. We agreed that God works in mysterious ways. So, since last Wednesday, I have set up a drop-off with Embrace in Waynesboro and we will be making a monetary donation to Soles for Souls since we couldn't get them the shoes that we had originally gathered for them. I wanted everyone in the congregation to know what was going on since you all made the donations. But they are still going to a worthy cause. Thank you.

Youth Mission Trip is the week of July 3rd, so please keep the adults and youth in your prayers during this week of being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who are attending and representing the whole church. We wish you a great week of work, weather, and fellowship. A huge


THANK YOU to Lorna Frizzelle for organizing all this and making it happen. Thank you to those people who have helped in any way to get this group out there helping this week.

Mission Spotlight for the Month:

Valley Mission. Serving more than 700 unique individuals each year, the Valley Mission strives to promote self-sustainability through the provision of case management, pastoral counseling, financial assistance, onsite enrichment programs including an afterschool program and onsite mental health counseling. We help restore the lives of people experiencing homelessness. They have been open since 1971 and their history is rooted in a love of Christ and a commitment to share that love with others, at a time when they need our love the most. 33,000 bed nights; 53,479 meals, 183 emergency food boxes, 764 after-school lessons, and 6,347 volunteer hours. Please include Valley Mission in your giving this year. If you would like to write a check for Valley Mission, please note on the memo line.

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

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



Young at Hearts
Tuesday, July 5 at 12 pm
Thomas House in Dayton

Men's Prayer Breakfast
8 am
Saturday, July 16

Treasurer's Report by cindy Kite

June 12, 2022 - Week 24

Happy 4th of July!! I hope you get to celebrate the holiday with your family and friends with lots of food and fireworks. And that you appreciate all the freedoms God has granted us in the good ole USA! What an awesome country we live in.

On with an update on our finances ... Instead of being 19.6% behind the budget as we were last month, we have gained some ground and are now only 14% behind our budget. Thank you to the estate and family of Johnnie Barr for a generous donation. We appreciate you and we all loved and miss Johnnie so much! His legacy will live on at Bethany!

Summer is always a tough time for the church when it comes to giving, so please remember to give even when

Budget	224,216.00	
Where We Should Be		103,484.44
Where We Are		89,024.99
Deficit of		(14,459.45)
Net Percentage		-14.0%

you miss a Sunday. We so appreciate all of you who are faithful givers. We are all one big church family and as in all families, we sometimes go through rough times. COVID has been one of those rough times. Hopefully we are on the other side of COVID and we can once again have no financial worries and will have two full congregations each Sunday. Wouldn't that be awesome!?!

July

2nd Kathy Frizzelle
Whitley Kile
3rd Thalia Casey
4th Tom Gorden
5th Daisy Castle
Grayson Metcalfe
Hayden Metcalfe
8th Avery Cox
11th Geneva Burns
12th Ramona Garrison
14th Jerry Sheets
16th Karen Ott
Ralph Reese
17th Sandy Gibson
19th Nancy Colvin
25th Charlene Michael

27th Kathy Kile
Drew Hittie
30th Jacob Robertson
Adam Casey

August

1st Eddie Lynn
3rd Joe Meek
5th Bill Kile
9th Jim Peterson
10th Julie Ritchie
11th Scott Williams
Christian Michael
13th Don Truslow
14th Judy Faby
16th Kaiden May
17th Samantha May
Casey Craun

18th Kevin Huffer
19th Dale Roller
20th Lindy Sheets
Robert Hill
Steve Schofield
21st Mark McDonald
24th Hazel Truslow
28th Stella Jo Howard
30th Carolyn Swartz
Eddie Moyer
Kevin Stroop

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not listed at all, please contact the office with the correct info. Thank you!



Prayer List

Members: Pastor Dan and Amy, Pastor Blaine, Bill Kile, Youth Mission Trip

Extended Family: Odessa Sandridge - mother of Kathy Kile, Mike Stump - husband of Kathleen Stump, friends of Terri Shifflett, niece of Tom Gorden, Scott - nephew of Dianna Eicher, Austin Bowers - friend of Mark Dunsmore



Let's All Volunteer

by Cindy Kite

I would like to talk about something other than finances that has been weighing heavy on my heart for the past few months. For many, many years Bethany has been an active, vibrant church with many exciting ministries, bible studies, small groups and mission projects. Believe me, I know, I've been here for many, many years! And with all these activities going, sometimes many at once, we always had enough folks volunteer to guarantee success!

Now that we are returning back to being an active church with an active children's ministry, youth ministry, bible studies, mission projects, community outreach ministries, etc., we find ourselves so short of volunteers that we have a hard time providing some of these ministries. The old saying I always hear is ... "20% of the people do 80% of the work within the church." Is that true at Bethany? Well, think about the folks you always see heading up committees, mission projects, outreach ministries, and the many other little things that need done at the church.

Do you see the same people volunteering to take care of these needs? I do. I see how hard some of these folks work behind the scenes. I am grateful to do whatever I can, when I can, to help out at my church, a church I love dearly! My feeling is I'm not only doing something for my church, I'm doing something to further the kingdom of

God. That's what we're all here for, aren't we?

Last fall, when over 90% of the church came out to the community center to help with our Community Trunk or Treat, my heart was overflowing with gratitude! I was truly amazed at the number of people who showed up to help!! Amazed, and if I'm honest, shocked that so many of you volunteered to help. (I hope you shock me again this year!!)

Someone recently said to me, "I'm going to take a break. Let someone else step up and fill my spot." If no one steps up to fill that empty spot, what then? What if everyone thinks someone else will step up, and no one does? My heart is saddened by the lack of response we get these days when asking for volunteers. I ask that you prayerfully ask God to show you where you can volunteer and make a difference. Be open to it and he will show you. Here are a few things we currently need volunteers for ...

- Greeters - sign up once a month, or just once
- Sunday morning refreshments - make coffee and set out snacks for folks to enjoy after the worship service ... again sign up once a month or just once
- Children's Church has taken a break for the summer, but will start up again in August ... volunteer to help

one Sunday ... lessons are planned for you

- Ladies, volunteer to be on the Women's Ministry Committee
- Help plan this fall's Community Trunk or Treat



- Mowers for the months of September and October
- Church positions ... youth director, youth member to council, small group coordinator, food and fellowship coordinator, nursery coordinator, bereavement coordinator ... if you are willing to fill one of these positions, please contact Pastor Blaine, Julie Ritchie or myself.

We are beginning a new season here at Bethany with a change of pastors. Let it be a new beginning for all of us! Find a place you can volunteer and together, with the leadership of Pastor Blaine, we will be able to bring Bethany back to that once active and vibrant church I remember! God gave all of us gifts to use to help people and to help our church. Use yours!

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." -Sherry Anderson

What Would You Say?

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Merle said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in peoples lives."

Don said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look! He's moving!'"



Bethany United Methodist Church

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"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Perry, Sexton

August Newsletter Deadline: July 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