



June 2022

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

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[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).



## Dad Jokes ...

I don't trust stairs. They are always up to something!

Why don't pirates take a bath before they walk the plank? They just wash up on the shore!

Did you hear about the guy who froze to death at the drive-in? He went to see "Closed for the Winter."

What did one plate say to another? Tonight, dinner's on me!



## From the Pastor's Desk

### A Season for Everything

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

This beautifully poetic piece of scripture reminds us that there is a time and a place for everything under heaven. I was reminded of this scripture as I prepared to write my last article for this newsletter. Last summer it was time for me to come and be your pastor. I was warmly welcomed and made to feel at home here with you all. Now, about one year later, it seems that it is time for me to move on to other callings and challenges. I have enjoyed my time serving at Bethany. This is a wonderful congregation with a strong commitment to missions and

Christian fellowship, and I am confident that you all will continue to be a vital congregation under new pastoral leadership! I am, and will continue to be, in prayer for you and for your new pastor. I'm excited about the potential for growth here under new, and more energetic (and youthful) leadership. Once more for the road:

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.*

*Both now and in the life everlasting. Amen*

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Dan*



Please join us for a Farewell Celebration for Pastor Dan on his last Sunday at Bethany, June 12. There are blank note cards in the Gathering Space for you to write a thank you or a note of appreciation for Pastor Dan as he leaves Bethany and begins a new phase in his life. We wish him and Amy the very best! Please place your cards in the box on the table.



You can also take a card to write our new pastor, Blaine Thomas, a welcome to Bethany note and introduce yourself to him. You can also place those cards in the box on the table. There will be a reception to welcome Pastor Blaine on Sunday, July 10 after the worship service.

## A Time of Transition

Once again, we find ourselves in a period of transition and most of us have mixed emotions. It's always good to meet new people coming to Bethany. We look forward to meeting our new pastor, Blaine Thomas. There is also a sense of loss realizing Pastor Dan will no longer be with us. I know you share my appreciation for what Dan has done for Bethany in a short period of time. He led us out of pandemic mode to being an active and engaged church. He reached out to people and got them coming back to church. He shared his musical talent and blessed us with his calm and comforting way. Pastor Dan's last Sunday is June 12. He and Amy will always be friends. We wish them the very best as Dan eases into retirement. He will serve as part-time pastor at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg. We will have a reception for Pastor Dan following the service on June 12.

And now it's time to welcome Pastor Blaine. Is he different from our past

pastors? Absolutely! Every pastor so far has been different. Every person who walks into our church is different. Blaine is a young, just recently engaged and is so eager to start his new life and ministry at Bethany. He's a native of Florida and got his undergraduate degree in Criminology at Florida State. He felt called to the ministry and went on to graduate from Duke Divinity School this past May. While at Duke, he met his fiancé, Ashley. She too is starting a career as a pastor at Mt. Pisgah UMC in Mt. Sidney. Pastor Blaine's official start date is June 29. We will have a reception for him after the service on July 10.

Where do we go from here? The same place we always go. Church on Sunday, enjoying the Praise and Worship music and Marguerite on the piano. Exchanging hugs and handshakes with our church family. Loving the people of Bethany and being thankful for all the ways Bethany enriches our lives. We will welcome Pastor Blaine and get to know him through his sermons. We will

get to know him over refreshments in the fellowship hall and committee meetings and working on mission projects. Let's give him the opportunity to know us by introducing ourselves and sharing a little about ourselves and our families. We can't expect him to remember our names at first, so we will wear name tags for awhile and give him a little time to settle in and get to know us. Never pass up an opportunity to make him feel welcome and do your part to ensure his success. Several of you contacted me about leads on housing. Thanks to one of those calls, Pastor Blaine found an apartment here in Weyers Cave at Virginia Manor.

Change is inevitable. Let's embrace it and embrace Pastor Blaine with open hearts and open minds. Pray for our church and Pastor Blaine during this transition. Pray for Pastor Dan as he transitions. And above all, celebrate the thing that doesn't change. God's love and grace for all of us.

Blessings!  
Jane Elkins

## Rev. Blaine Thomas Bio

Grace and Peace Bethany UMC Family:

My name is Rev. Blaine Thomas and it is with an abundance of joy and thankfulness that I get to serve as Pastor at Bethany UMC. I have just graduated from Duke Divinity School with my Master of Divinity degree.

A few things you ought to know about me: I grew up in Tallahassee, FL; a few minutes from the FL-GA border; I am a lifelong United Methodist (baptized and confirmed in the UMC); as well as a lifelong Florida State University fan, which is also the school I graduated with my bachelors in religion and minor in criminology from. I love to golf and to play all sports, especially those that take place outside. I am 25-years-old and I'm excited to be moving to Weyers Cave alongside my wonderful fiancé, Ashley Oliver. Ashley has been appointed to serve as Pastor at Mt. Pisgah UMC, in Mt. Sidney; so we will begin our journey together as a

clergy couple. We are thrilled to be coming to the Valley and to enter into holy friendships with all we meet; as well as continuing our holy friendship with the Lord. I can't wait to meet each and every one of you in the next few weeks. Know that I am excited to walk alongside y'all as we grow in Christ together, as beloved children of God. I'll leave you all with my favorite bible verse, that has kept me going in my most difficult days, which reads:

*"but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength;  
they will fly up on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not be tired;  
they will walk and not be weary."*  
(Isaiah 40:31)

In Christ,  
*Rev Blaine Thomas*





## Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

Summer is almost here. Schools will be out soon, and the kids will enjoy their time off. Congratulations to our seniors graduating, Ben Michael and Krisalyn Mooney. Happy Father's Day to all our dads out there. Keep up the good work, daddios.

THANK YOU to all those who put together and donated hygiene kits or donated the money to purchase them. Rosemary Wagoner will be taking these for Annual Conference this month.

We have been doing lots of collecting over the past couple months, so I am giving you a little break. We do not have any mission collections going on now. Enjoy this beautiful world that we

have and get outside to enjoy it. Be kind to each other and show God's love.

The Splash Party and Pentecost Sunday will be a great adventure. Thank you to all of you who are helping to put on these fun events.

The Youth Mission Trip will be happening the week of July 3, so we need to be in prayer for our youth and adults going on this meaningful trip. Volunteer to cook them something to take on the trip, or donate some junk food, or be a prayer warrior for them during the week. Wish them well on their journey and their hard work because they are being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Any questions, please ask me. If you know of anyone that needs help, please let me or anyone on Missions know

about it.

**Mission Spotlight for the month:** Our Church as a whole. We need prayers for losing Pastor Dan and Pastor Blaine taking over. We need to keep tabs on each other and take care of each other. We need to be each other's support in this transition time. We need to come back together and be the best Bethany that we can be. Love to you all. Thanks for being part of this amazing church.



## Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Yay! Finally, it's summertime!! Warm weather and lots of sunshine! Flowers, showers and thunderstorms. What a wonderful time of year.

It's a wonderful time in the life of Bethany too! We are also changing seasons as we say goodbye to Pastor Dan and hello and welcome to Pastor Blaine. And with the changing of seasons at Bethany, there comes an adjustment time.

We need to give Pastor Blaine time to adjust to the ebb and flow of Bethany. To it's people. To it's missions and ministries. To our worship service. To our music. Pray for him and for Bethany during this changing of seasons.

We had a very nice donation from the estate of Johnnie Barr. Part of it went to the church and part of it went to the Naked Creek Cemetery Fund. We thank the family of Johnnie so much for this donation! It has helped us gain some ground with our deficit of funds. Please prayerfully consider donating to Bethany if you don't already. And if you do, prayerfully consider increasing your gift by just a tad. With the leadership of Pastor Blaine Thomas, we want to become an active vibrant church once again. Only with your generosity can that happen! Happy summer!! ☀️

May 31, 2022 - Week 22		
Budget	224,216.00	
Where We Should Be		94,860.70
Where We Are		76,723.22
Deficit of		(18,137.48)
Net Percentage		-19.1%

## Prayer List:

**Members:** Peggy Lucas, Barbara Somers, Pastor Dan & Amy, Pastor Blaine & his fiancé Ashley

**Extended Family:** Baby Maggie

**Shut-Ins:** Judy Faby, Helen Figgins, Jean Houff, Charlene Michael, Carolyn Roller

I've Moved!



Carolyn Swartz  
5711 Oak Villa Lane  
Rockingham, VA  
22801

## Congratulations to Our Favorite High School Seniors

### Benjamin (Ben) Robert Michael

Benjamin Robert Michael is the last, but certainly not the least, of the Michael family crew. His high school career was filled with various activities to include running on the NAAR cross country team, competing in the high jump and 100 meter and 200 meter races. He played golf all 4 years of high school and was all district both his junior and senior years, finishing second in the district this year. Ben was also a member of the Latin Club and completed a mentorship at Ironwood Golf and Country Club in Staunton.

Ben is everyone's favorite babysitter and also a dog sitter extraordinaire. Next year he plans to take a gap year, working and putting money in the bank while exploring his options!

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." James 4:8

### Krisalyn Ann Mooney ...

Krisalyn Ann Mooney is graduating from Fort Defiance High School with a 4.4 GPA, a member of the National Honor Society, and #1 on the girls' tennis team. She attended Governor's School the past 2 years. She is in the top 3 of her class. It is so close that we won't know until days before graduation.

She received \$100 Code of Ethics Award from the Staunton Rotary Club, a \$500 Scholarship from the Augusta Lions Club for the Buddy Bosserman Memorial, and \$500 from the New Hope Ruritan Club. She will be heading to UVA in the fall, majoring in biomedical engineering.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

### June

3rd Becky Hawkins  
5th Bettina Ruleman  
Blaine Thomas  
7th Brenda Hiner  
Briton Herron  
Lucy Huffer  
9th Jac Bridges  
12th Avery Craun  
15th Terri Shifflett  
18th Jonathan Northrop  
20th Maggie Huffer  
23rd Kelly Herron  
Jim Miller  
24th Deja Moyer  
26th Dianna Eicher

26th Mae Houff  
28th Dave Williams  
30th Pete Richards

### 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



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

## Bethany United Methodist Church

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## The Echo

### "The Echo"

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Danny Perry, Sextons

July Newsletter Deadline: June 20, 2022

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).

Webmaster: [bethanyumc.website@gmail.com](mailto: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