



The Echo

August 2022

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 A Note from the Pastor & Upcoming Bible Study
- 3 Mission Update
- 4 Nursery Volunteers Needed
- 5 A Few Announcements
- 6 Thoughts from a Member
- 7 Finance Update
- 8 Dog Days of Summer, Birthdays & Prayer List
- 9 August Calendar

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.



It's August and you know what that means!!!

Our Annual Ice Cream Social!!

Sunday, August 21 at 5:30 pm

Plan on making your award winning ice cream to serve to a hungry crowd!

There will be a prize for the best ice cream of the evening!

**If you are able to bring ice cream,
please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.**

Those not providing ice cream are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

The church will provide hotdogs, buns, and drinks.

Don't forget your lawn chairs or blankets to sit outside under the trees.

It will be a fun-filled afternoon that you don't want to miss!



From the Pastor's

Desk . . .

August Letter from the Pastor's Desk:

What a month July was! It is such a blessing to be a part of this wonderful community that cares so much for the community of the Shenandoah Valley. From the food pantry, to the youth mission trip, to visiting and getting to know people's stories; I feel overwhelmed by the Spirit of God in this place. I have come to see the small town charm and friendliness of this place, and truly feel blessed to be a part of this beautiful community. As the hot and stormy month of July is behind us, and we begin to look towards the beginning of school; I want to encourage everyone who is reading this that the Bethany family NEEDS YOU! Whether you have not returned since the beginning of the pandemic or have found yourself away for too long, I want to personally invite you to come be a part of this community, again. Just as Christ encourages the body to fellowship and break bread with one another; the Church is

called to be together, in person and fellowship.

For those who may still be concerned with COVID, know that I understand and your safety is of the utmost importance to me. Those who choose to wear masks, please know that you are so welcome and encouraged to do whatever makes you feel the most comfortable. For those who are struggling to get up and join us at 9:30 am, please know that conversations are underway to accommodate that; especially if we continue to grow our attendance. The Spirit is alive and well in this congregation, and I hope if for nothing else, that you come to experience this beautiful Spirit, that

has reminded me that God has not and never will NEGLECT us!

As the fall creeps closer, know that we have many events planned such as the Ice Cream Social and Trunk or Treat, as well as book studies, a soon-to-be equipped nursery, and many opportunities to get involved. If you have any concerns or needs, please feel free to reach out to me. But for now, know that God is on the move and I hope and pray you will come or continue to show up to experience the goodness of God.

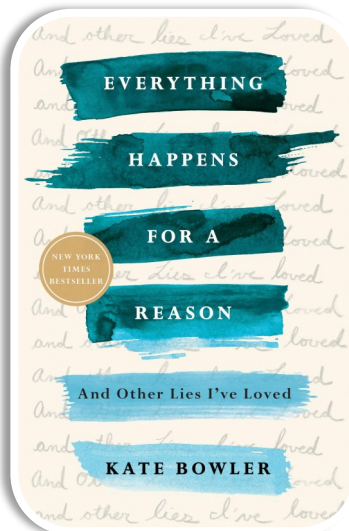
Sincerely Your Pastor and Friend,
Rev. Blaine Thomas

God is on the move
On the move....Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways

Upcoming Book Study

Join Pastor Blaine, beginning September 7 at 10 am or 7 pm, as we explore how we as Christians respond to evil, illnesses, and grief; by examining this New York Times Bestseller "Everything Happens for A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved." Dr. Kate Bowler is a Duke Divinity School professor who wrestles with her own journey of illness and how her understanding of healing in the Christian tradition created a struggle in her own life, and gives real ample ways we as Christians can walk through illness, tragedies, and grief in a way that is much more effective and loving. All are welcome to come and join in this book study that will certainly challenge us in our own ways of responding to grief and hopefully give us real, tangible ways to be better siblings in Christ.

Thanks in advance for signing up early (at the Welcome Center) so we know how many books to order. We want everyone to be able to have one!



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

August, already!!! Where did the summer go? It will be time to head back to school real soon. Good luck to all students and teachers heading back to the classroom.

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped with the youth mission trip in any way, whether you went on the trip, were a prayer warrior, helped provide snacks or treats, etc. Can't wait to hear about the trip on Youth Mission Sunday during this month.

Adult Missions have two needs this month: shoes and clothing for kids at South River Elementary School, and items for Kingsway Ministries.

- **South River Elementary School** is in Grottoes and Jackie Dunsmore is the school counselor there. We need donations of boys & girls clothing (size 5T-10) athletic type pants/shorts, t-shirts, and/or sweatshirts. We will take any kids shoes, but mainly are looking for size 12, 13, 1, and 2 in both girls and boys.
- **Kingsway Ministries** needs shampoo, deodorant, throw away razors, and shaving cream for men and women.

Money donations will also be accepted if you can't get out to buy items. Donation bins will be in the foyer, if you are willing to make any donations for either one of these groups. Thank you in advance if you can purchase items for them. We will collect items until Labor Day weekend, Sunday, Sept. 4.

We are in the planning stages for the Trunk or Treat at the end of October and we are requesting bags of candy (we need lots of bags of candy, lots, and lots). You can start bringing in bags of candy anytime for donations. Thanks. There will be a basket available in the foyer for your donations.

Mission Spotlight for the Month: Kingsway Ministries in Harrisonburg.

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that has been offering assistance to the incarcerated, ex-offenders, and their families since 1983. Kingsway Outreach is a hands-on service ministry reaching out in Christian love with no prejudice. We support Kingsway Outreach with mission money and every October, we participate in the Apple Tree Project purchasing toys, games, and bibles, for the children that have incarcerated parents. Our church normally takes on 60+ kids each year. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please note it in the memo section of your check. Or help by purchasing the items requested above and leave in the bin in the fellowship hall.

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

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

Good Questions ...

- When an octopus puts on deodorant, how does he remember where he started?
- Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- Have you ever noticed that most women's magazines offer dozens of dessert recipes followed by dozens of diet tips?
- What do you call a male ladybug?
- How do you know when you're running out of invisible ink?
- How do you explain what counterclockwise means when all a kid has ever seen is a digital clock?
- If it's true that the world is getting smaller every day, why do airline fares keep going up?
- Why are boxing rings square?



Nursery Volunteers Needed

With so many folks returning to church, we want to be able to offer parents a safe nursery to leave their children in as they enjoy the worship service. A nursery is a must for visiting families with young children! We want to keep those visiting families coming back to Bethany. To do that, we need volunteers to staff a nursery every Sunday!! Please prayerfully consider volunteering in Bethany's nursery. You never know what kind of difference you might make in a young life! We are looking for two folks each Sunday, at least one adult and teens. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for you to take one Sunday a month! If you have questions, please contact Julie Ritchie at jantchie@comcast.net or 540-383-9445.

Take a minute to read this article about nursery volunteers and their importance written by Dale Hudson.



Nursery volunteers are the coolest people on the planet! They have the privilege of helping lay an early Biblical foundation in children's lives. They also make a huge difference in parent's lives as they make it possible for them to worship and hear God's Word with focused attention.

At times, nursery volunteers may wonder if their ministry really does make a difference. Unless the 6 month old is exceptionally bright and quotes Psalm 23 back to them, they may not see as much outward fruit as someone who works with older kids. Sometimes they need to be encouraged by being reminded how vital their ministry is.

Last week I was reading in the book of Exodus and something jumped out at me. I just had to share it with our nursery teams. Remember the story of baby Moses? He was born at a time when he shouldn't have survived. Pharaoh was having all Hebrew baby boys killed.

But God had His eye on this baby boy named Moses. He had special plans for this kid. Moses' mother hid him for as long as she could, but you can only hide a baby boy with a good set of lungs for so long. So she made a basket, turned it into a sailboat, and placed him in the river with a prayer and a hope.

Check out what happened next in Exodus 2. His sister (Miriam) stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter, who went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. *"This is one of the Hebrew babies,"* she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, *"Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"*

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, *"Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you."*

It was no accident that Miriam stuck around to watch over baby Moses from a distance. It was part of God's divine plan. He placed her there to make sure a divine connection would take place between Pharaoh's daughter and Moses' mother. This would allow Moses to be safe in the arms of his mother until it was time for him to go to the palace.

Here's the word for nursery volunteers:

- God has a special plan for each child you are watching over.
- You are part of His divine plan for each child's life.
- Sometimes you may feel like you are "watching from the distance" like Miriam was. You may even feel like you are in the "background" because you are not teaching in front of an audience or singing on a stage. But God is working through your life at all times. He does some of His most powerful work in the "background."
- God is using your ministry to make a divine connection in the child's life.
- You never know who you are watching over. The child may be another Moses who changes the world for Christ.
- Keep faithfully watching over the little ones and you will see miraculous things happen.

Church Safety

While going over Bethany's safety policy, we would like to remind folks about these simple things that should be done ...

- Make sure that all doors are securely closed and locked when you leave the church building. This ensures the safety of others when entering the church, especially if they are by themselves.
- If you see non-church folks loitering in the parking lot, please report this to the church office or the Trustees.
- We've all heard about the gun violence happening against churches. We also realize that this makes some people nervous and others cautious. If you are one of those cautious people who are concealed gun carriers, with the proper permits, please notify Pastor Blaine if you are carrying during the worship service or other church functions.

Thank all of you for helping to keep our Bethany family safe and secure!

Communion

We will begin sharing communion on Sunday, August 7 and will resume having communion on first Sundays once again. There will be three different options for communion. We will hold communion by intinction on Sunday. If you aren't comfortable with intinction, there will also be communion cups set up in the front of the church. If you do not want to participate in communion yet or are not able to come to the front of the church, Pastor Blaine will come to you and pray with you. We will try to meet the needs of all of our folks! We will also resume collecting an offering for the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund," which is used to assist people in need, both Bethany folks and those within our community. If you have thoughts or concerns about communion, please talk to Pastor Blaine.



Women's Ministries

If you would like to be part of Women's Ministries, please contact Cindy Kite at 540-820-5604 or office.bethany@gmail.com. We have a great time working together to plan Bible studies, fun fellowship events for the ladies of Bethany along with mission projects and other events for the entire church. Our first event will be the Ice Cream Social scheduled for Sunday, August 21 at 5:30 pm. We need you and your ideas for events.



A Women's Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4 (please note date change!) at 6:30 pm at the church. If you have a heart for women ministries, this is the perfect opportunity for you to serve your Bethany family! **And it's FUN!!**

Thank You!

A BIG thank you goes out to Marguerite McDonald for her awesome piano playing and especially her montage of patriot music during the July 3 worship service.

And to Pam Roller for the beautiful video she put together which played during Marguerite's patriot montage.

Thank you to Pam Roller and Maggie Huffer for always being in the back of the church doing their magic with all the video equipment!

And to Mark Dunsmore who is always at the sound board ensuring that we are all able to hear those up front!

Thank all those who give of their time and talents to make sure we all enjoy our worship experience each Sunday.



Only One Thing in this Life is Certain ... Change

by Dani Martlock DeHart

“Nothing is certain except death and taxes” - Benjamin Franklin.

With profound respect, I disagree with Mr. Franklin. For the devout believer, the former is avoidable and for the shrewd businessman the latter is a null factor. I argue that there is only one thing in this life that is certain... change.

Change is omnipresent, unavoidable, and necessary. It is the one thing that keeps us on our toes, keeps us guessing, and keeps us growing. It is the only thing that requires a genuine leap of faith and full trust in the Lord. Change is painful and uncomfortable, but without change, life would become a stagnant puddle of water filled with baby mosquitoes.

We, as a UMC, are not a stranger to change. Change in leadership is required to prevent complacency both in our pastors and in the church body. In my short time at Bethany (I started attending in the fall of 2013), Pastor Blaine is the fifth pastor to lead us. It's a huge change each and every time, but we at Bethany adapt so seamlessly, it really feels like there is little to no change at all. Why?

Regardless of who is at the pulpit on Sunday morning, it is the leaders of the church who keep us going ... even when the world stops. We all remember March 13, 2020. It was because of the swift action of church leaders that virtual services were made possible. It was because of church leaders that our food pantry

continued to help our neighbors in need. It was because of church leaders that drive-in worship became a reality. It was because of church leaders that we were able to return to in-person worship and resume other well-loved ministries and activities.

Church leaders are not just those appointed to committee chair. Church leaders are anyone who sees the need, picks up the charge, and leads the church body. Bethany is a congregation of leaders. We lead with quiet action. We lead by example. We lead by teaching. We lead by loving. We lead by listening. We lead by supporting each other. We lead by encouraging. We lead by welcoming. We lead by being the hands and feet of Jesus. We lead by accepting change, trusting God, and moving with it.

I remember when Pastor Brad announced that it was time for him to move on. I had never experienced a change in pastors before and was certain that the Bethany that I came to know and love would change. I was not ready for that change. I needed Bethany to be the same constant it had been in my life. I needed to know that the church, that was such an important part of my recovery, was still going to be there. I was terrified.

Then Pastor Brad and Donna left and Pastor John came. While the helm of the sanctuary had changed, nothing else did. It was then that I realized the single most important thing about Bethany. Bethany is not a pastor. Bethany is not a building. Bethany is not a single person. Bethany is family. We can weather change and adapt because we are

family.

Twice now I have stepped away from the church. Somehow, somehow, I was never forgotten. Whether it was a card from a church member telling me I was missed, or a phone call asking how I was doing, even in my absence, I was never alone. I am forever drawn back to my family because it is home.

No matter the time I am away, when I walk through the doors, it is like no time has passed. We seem to pick up right where we left off. I cannot thank each and every one of you enough. You have taken in a lost soul and her three amazing children and adopted them as your own. It warms my heart when I am asked about Billy, Tiana, or Landon. I know that they do not come to church anymore, but they too are not forgotten.

Bethany is a unique and wonderful family.

Pastor Blaine, I whole-heartedly welcome you to the family. If nothing else you take from us when it is time to leave, take the ability to love without question. It is a skill I still struggle with, but am reminded of every time I think about my family at Bethany. I am so honored to have found Bethany. I am so honored to be a part of Bethany. I know you will feel the same way too.

Change is certain in life. Change is a whole heck of a lot more palatable knowing that we are a family who will get through whatever changes life has in store for us, as long as we are together.

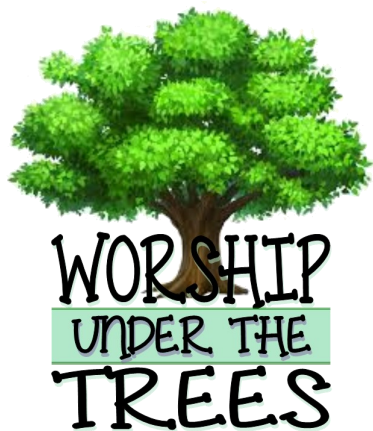
Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Here we are in the middle of summer. Usually at this time of the year, I'm worrying about giving ... giving compared to what I need to pay out each week. This year, it's been different. Different in a good way. I'm happy to report that our giving has actually gone up this summer!! Thank you Jesus!

July 17 - Week 29		
Budget	224,216.00	
Where We Should Be		125,043.69
Where We Are		112,659.93
Deficit of		(12,383.76)
Net Percentage		-9.9%

I've been working in church finance for almost 20 years and believe me, this is very unusual. Normally during the summer months, giving takes a big dip because of sporadic attendance. When there's sporadic attendance, there's always sporadic giving. To avoid this problem, think about setting your giving up online so it comes out automatically and you don't have to think about it. Set it up weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, however you want. It's easy. If you have any trouble or have questions, just give me a call or shoot me an email.

Okay, well, maybe we should give our new pastor, Blaine Thomas, some of the credit for that uptick in giving! Folks are always nervous when it's announced that we're getting a new pastor. And, of course, everyone wants to come to church for at least one Sunday to check him out and hear him preach. I've noticed that those who have come back to hear him are returning Sunday after Sunday. He brought with him a new energy and excitement!! I hope you continue to be excited about your new pastor and your church. Let's look forward to this new chapter at Bethany under the direction of Pastor Blaine. Catch his excitement and energy! God has a plan for Bethany and you are part of his plan. Thank you so much to those who give to Bethany, with not only your monetary donations, but with your time and talents. Give. Volunteer. And watch Bethany do amazing things! Aren't you excited to be a part of it?!



Plan to join us
on Sunday, Sept. 11
at 10 am for
"Worship Under the Trees."

We'll worship outside under
our beautiful trees.
Please bring chairs and
blankets to sit outside.

Refreshments will be
served before the service.

Youth Mission Trip

14 youth and 4 adults headed to the Hinton Retreat Center in Hayesville, NC for the 2022 Youth Mission Trip the week of 4th of July. Going to the retreat center was like going to church camp but instead of the activities during the day, mission work was completed for individuals in the community. It was very different from years past, but the youth still bonded and mission work was still completed. Please plan to attend church on Sunday, August 21st to hear about the experience!





**During the month of August
Pastor Blaine will be preaching a sermon series called
"The Dog Days of Summer."**

**We ask you to bring a picture of your dog
(or cat if you don't have a dog) and
attach it to the tri-fold stand in the foyer.
Please make sure it has the dog's and owner's names.
You can give it to Cindy Kite or you can email it to the office
at office.bethany@gmail.com.**

Thank you for your prayers!

I want to thank everyone for the prayers and for the phone calls about my mom. She is okay! She has been in A-Fib since February and is scheduled to have ablation heart surgery the end of August to correct it. If her heart gets out of rhythm for too long, it resets her pacemaker and she has to go to the hospital and have them reset it to a normal rhythm until she has the surgery. She was supposed to have had surgery in July; however, she had COVID and had to reschedule.

-Tara Stroop

Please be in prayer for ...

Members: Bill Kile, Garrett Roller, Tom & Jan Gorden, Pam Lynn (traveling mercies)

Extended Family: niece of Tom Gorden, Scott - nephew of Diana Eicher, Austin Bowers - friend of Mark Dunsmore, sister of Jim Miller, mother of Tara Stroop, Marilyn - friend of Jan Peterson, Isaac Ward - father of Lori Mooney

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Kenneth Hopkins, long time member, who passed away on Wednesday, July 20.

August

- 1 Eddie Lynn
- 3 Joe Meek
- 5 Bill Kile
- 9 Jim Peterson
- 10 Julie Ritchie
- 11 Christian Michael
Scott Williams
- 13 Donald Truslow
- 14 Judy Faby
- 17 Casey Craun
- 18 Kevin Huffer
- 19 Dale Roller
- 20 Lindy Sheets
Robert Hill



- 20 Steve Schofield
- 21 Mark McDonald
- 24 Hazel Truslow
- 28 Stella Jo Howard
- 30 Carolyn Swartz
Eddie Moyer
Kevin Stroop

September









- 1 Jerry Cook
- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Laike Huffer
- 8 Randy Kite
- 11 Mary Beth Schwab

- 12 Bridgett Crawford
- 18 Joe Howard
Hattie Castle
- 19 Val Hiner
- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael
- 24 Elva Shifflett
- 26 Weezer Crawford



August 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4-5:30 pm - Food Pantry 6 pm - Worship Meeting	2 10 am - Caring Cards 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon O'Neil's in H'Burg	3	4 6:30 pm - Women's Ministry Meeting 	5	6
7 Communion 	8 4-5:30 pm - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	9	10 	11	12	13 
14	15 4-5:30 pm - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - SPPRC Meeting	16 	17	18 <i>be silly. be honest. be kind.</i>	19	20 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 
21 YOUTH SUNDAY!  5:30 pm - Ice Cream Social	22 4-5:30 pm - Food Pantry Articles for Sept Newsletter Due!	23	24	25	26 	27
28	29 4-5:30 pm - Food Pantry	30	31 <i>Today will be great</i>			

Every one of those Sunday sermons
Every time that choir would sing
I could hear my Savior calling, telling me how much He loves me
No matter what the world throws at me
I know His word is true
It all started with heart-stirring, spirit-moving Sunday Sermons
(Sunday Sermons by Anne Wilson)

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Sunday, August 21

The Echo

"The Echo"

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Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Perry, Sexton

Sept. Newsletter Deadline: August 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