



The Echo

September 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.



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES

Come be a part of our outside "Worship Under the Trees" service on Sunday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. (please note time change). Bring a chair or a blanket to sit on. We will have some shaded areas on the blacktop available for seating for those who might have difficulty navigating the church yard.

Please come early for some fellowship and brunchy refreshments at 9:00. Scavenger hunt for the kids at 9:15.

This will be an interactive service for all ages as we celebrate the beauty of God's creation. Invite or bring a friend or neighbor. If the weather is rainy, we will pretend we are under the trees and move all activities inside.

Hope to see everyone at "Worship Under the Trees" on September 11.



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

As Augusta and Rockingham County Schools get started back up, I cannot stop thinking about the feelings of being the new kid at the new school, and all the emotions that go through that child's brain. The wanting to find new and good friends quickly, but also being shy and maybe not willing to put themselves out there, as they are afraid they might get burned or embarrassed. From going to classes, to lunch, to recess or PE, it can be difficult for kids to feel welcome and special in new environments, where a lot of relationships are already established. Even those who may consider themselves as being an extrovert (like myself), oftentimes find it difficult to jump in late to the party, and establish themselves as one of the group. With all that being said, I know I am still the new guy and that "new kid on the block" freshness will probably continue for the next few months. And yet, you all have been incredibly opening and welcoming to me, as well as my fiancé. Someone the other day mentioned I was still in the "honeymoon phase" here at Bethany, and although this certainly seems true, I am starting to feel a bit more comfortable in this community.

I believe it is important to have a vision and mission as the new guy and so I want to be transparent in what that is for me. I want to continue the emphasis on growing and

nurturing our children and youth programs, while also focusing on how the Spirit is moving in and through our church, to continue to reach our community. The people here at Bethany have a heart for the community and for the Gospel, and because of that, I want to challenge and encourage all of us to get involved in what the Spirit is leading you to do. Find something that is in your wheelhouse that you will enjoy, and do it with a faithful and loving heart. My hopes, dreams, and vision for this community is BIG and can only happen with involvement and commitment from everyone who calls this place home. God is calling this community to more. God is calling this community to love deeper. God is calling this community to transform the world. God is using ALL of us here at Bethany, as we "are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9 NRSV)"

Let's be proclaimers of God's marvelous light, my friends.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Blaine



**PASTOR BLAINE WILL MEET WITH THE YOUTH
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

**ALL YOUTH ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TO LET PASTOR BLAINE
HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR YOUTH PROGRAM.**

YOUR OPINION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM!

**IF YOU CAN'T BE THERE, BUT HAVE SOME THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE,
PLEASE CONTACT HIM AT BLAINETHOMAS@VAUMC.ORG OR 850-508-7245.**

Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

September is time for fall and cooler weather. We had a little bit of relief in August with some nice cool weather, but now watch out to see what happens.

THANK you for all the donations for the shoes and clothing for kids at South River Elementary School, and the personal care items for Kingsway Ministries. These donations will help make someone's life a little easier, so it is greatly appreciated. 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). Keep bringing in bags of candy anytime for donations. Thanks.

Please find your "sweet spot" and start giving it your all for this church. (See article on page 4.)

Mission Spotlight for the Month:
Renewing Homes of Greater

Augusta (RHGA) is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit that provides low-income homeowners, living in Staunton, Augusta County, and Waynesboro (SAW) Virginia. The mission of RHGA is to accomplish, at no cost to a homeowner, critical home repairs and modifications for low-income elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged homeowners. "We are a volunteer-driven organization with an active board and many dedicated volunteers who complete repairs for our clients. We provide our services for low-income elderly, disabled or disadvantaged homeowners in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. Unfortunately, the number of these persons and families increases each year. We provide our assistance to as many of these as our donated funds and volunteer labor permits. In recent years we have been able to provide help to 35-45 homeowners each year. With increased donations and volunteers, we can do more. Typical jobs include roof replacement, wheelchair ramps, accessibility modifications and general repairs." If you would like to donate to this



group, please write it in the memo section of your check.

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

Chair: Lori Mooney, 540-829-7394



Men's Prayer Breakfast

will meet on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 8 am in the church fellowship hall. All men are invited to come and enjoy a homecooked breakfast, fellowship and have a time of prayer for our members, family, extended family, our community and the world. Questions? Call or text Eddie Moyer at 540-294-6616.



Young at Hearts

will meet for their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 12 noon. Join us at Mrs. Rows in Staunton for some good food, fun and some of the best fellowship around. All folks, 55 or older, but still "young at heart" are invited to join us! Please contact Carolyn Swartz at 540-820-9798 or swartz1204@gmail.com so she will know how many to expect.



Cancelled

Caring Cards

invites you to join them on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 10 am to write cards and notes of encouragement to our members who might need a little encouragement, are sick, have birthdays, etc. As we write, we have a good time fellowshiping together. Please join us! Questions? Contact Geneva Burns at urnsva@comcast.net.



How to Find Your Sweet Spot in Life

by Rachel Linden
Posted in Life Advice
(submitted by Lori Mooney)



My little quilt was ugly. There was no other way to describe it—the lopsided edges, the ungainly stitches, the puckered patchwork. The quilting teacher, who studiously kept her gaze on my homeschool co-op classmates' more orderly and symmetrical quilts, pursed her lips: "Perhaps you *should* consider cake decorating next quarter."

It was not the first *should* I had encountered. But I was too busy dreaming of a life of adventure and travel to be bothered with perfecting my quilting or baking skills. I didn't know it then, but those adolescent dreams were the first inklings of what would turn out to be my sweet spot in life.

What is a sweet spot? I define it as that wonderful place, where the things you love meet the needs of the world, and your passions create positive change in your community and the world around you.

Each person's sweet spot is unique.

A talented crafting friend of mine in Portland makes adorable bespoke baby outfits and donates the proceeds to help sexually exploited women in Europe. My uncle, a gentle giant of a man, is a gifted ukulele teacher and gives free music lessons to prison inmates in California. My sister-in-law uses her skill as a professional photographer to raise awareness and resources for disabled children in Zambia. A computer programmer friend is teaching a homeless young man he met on the subway to code. A

local optometrist spends a few weeks a year fitting people for glasses, often the first pair they've ever owned, in the poverty-stricken mountain villages of Nicaragua.

Each of these individuals is doing what they love, what they're gifted at and trained for, and using that to help to the world a better place.

Sweet spots are different for everyone—starting an ethically conscious business, raising funds by doing something you love to help a cause close to your heart—each one is valuable, each one is a gift to the world.

Some know early where our sweet spot is in life, but for most it's a process of trial and error and gradual discovery. It took me most of my thirties to finally home in on mine—writing fiction and working in international aid. I worked for seven years with a faith-based organization in central Europe, then started writing novels that celebrate the things I love most—travel, food, strong women overcoming big challenges with hope and courage and social justice issues related to women. It took years for me to figure out how to blend the two elements of writing and international work successfully; years of saying no to the "shoulds" and yes to what I truly loved. I had some detours along the way (here's looking at you, short stint in event planning!) But when I finally found my sweet spot, I experienced deep joy and satisfaction. Getting to do the things I love feels like getting to eat cake all day!

If you're confident that you know what your sweet spot is in life, and you're living in it now, then fantastic! If you're not entirely sure, here are a few ideas to get you started.

1. Get rid of the "shoulds" in your life

Stop worrying that what you love isn't good enough or thinking that it can't help someone. Any gift, skill or passion can be used in some way to make your community and the world a better place.

2. Make a list of the things you love

Are you passionate about cutting hair, backpacking, making a great batch of kombucha or practicing yoga? If you love it, write it down. If you're stuck on discerning what you really love, think of the things you played pretend about as a child. I told adventure stories. Then, as soon as I could write, I created little books bound in cardboard from cereal boxes. As I matured, my core interests essentially stayed the same. What do you naturally gravitate toward now? What are the things you would do for free, or just for the sheer joy of them? Those are most likely part of your sweet spot in life.



3. Now start brainstorming

Search online to see who else loves the things you love and what they're doing to help the world. What clubs, organizations or movements need your skills? How about friends, neighbors and religious organizations in your community? Want to travel further and donate your unique skills in other parts of the world? I guarantee there is someone who needs just what you have to offer! Band together with others, help each other brainstorm and discover.

It is not an easy task. Finding your sweet spot is often a long process, peppered with detours and disappointments, but it is so worthwhile in the end. When each of us finds our unique sweet spot in life, our whole selves, our communities and the entire world, are better for it.

Glad to be a Methodist

by Rosemary Wagoner

For a long time I have been glad to be a Methodist. I want to share with you some history about John Wesley who is known as the Father of Methodism. He cared for the poor, sick, and less fortunate. He never intended to create a new denomination, and although Wesley died an Anglican...he certainly created the Methodist movement, one that was focused on people on the margins. The first society was labeled the Holy Club by outsiders. It grew to the size that it had to be divided in groups called classes. This was where the idea of small groups was born. They gathered to have communion once a week, pray, study the Bible, discuss their spiritual lives and collect money for charity.

Wesley traveled over 4,000 miles annually as an itinerant preacher and preached over 40,000 sermons in his lifetime. He organized his followers into a connection, and a

number of societies into a circuit led by a superintendent.

Periodic meetings of clergy and lay ministers evolved into the annual conference, where those who were to serve each circuit were appointed, usually for three-year terms. Today the last action of Annual Conference is to fix the appointments which is to make sure every church is appointed a pastor.

John Wesley also purchased a foundry which soon became the Foundry Church that eventually grew to over 1,000. They didn't just meet on Sunday. They loaned money to the needy, provided medical care for the sick, started a school, and offered housing for widows and orphans. You can see Wesley's influence in the work and mission of the United Methodist Church even today. The Wesley way is prominent there at Bethany. It warms my heart to see how we assist the poor through our loving endeavors in missions, as well as having a number of small groups.



Capital Expense Fund Update

As most of you have heard, some major repairs had to be made to the church building recently. The roof over the fellowship hall and the foyer had to be replaced along with some of the gutters. The A/C unit that heats and cools the kitchen went out last winter and the entire unit had to be replaced. It was the original unit that was installed when that part of the church was built.

Of course, as with everything nowadays, these repairs were not cheap! The Trustees took \$25,000 from the Memorial Fund to help with the cost of these two major repairs. The total for the work done was \$51,000. The Trustees were hoping that the congregation would help come up with the remaining \$26,000. Many of you have already made donations to the Capital Expense (Building) Fund, and for that we are thankful. If you haven't contributed to that fund yet, please consider doing so. We still need \$15,771.16 to make up the difference. Just mark your contribution "Capital Expense" or "Building Fund." There are special envelopes at the Welcome Center in the foyer for your convenience. You can place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or mail it to the church. You can also give online through our website.

As we look ahead, we see other needs in the future. Our boiler for one, which will be \$60,000+ to replace. Whatever we collect above and beyond the \$15,771.16 that we still need to cover current repairs, will go towards saving to replace our boiler and whatever other issues may arise in the future.

Expenses	\$51,000.00
Transferred from Memorial Fund	\$25,000.00
Collected from Congregation	\$10,228.84
Amount Needed	15,771.16

Trunk or Treat by Cindy Kite

Trunk or Treat, our churchwide outreach event for our community, will be held on Sunday, October 23 from 4-6 pm at the Weyers Cave Community Center. And we NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

Sign-ups for volunteers will be up very soon. Please sign up for something! Many of you have already committed to helping ... thank you! We need everyone from our youth to our seniors to help. You can help in many ways ... here's a few ...

- at the Welcome Table (we'll have 2)
- with parking
- create a trunk ... if you need help with an idea or with decorating, please contact myself, Kathy Kile or Jackie Dunsmore - we'll be glad to help you!



- help with games (make them & help with them)
- help prepare, bag and hand out food
- volunteer to supervise a bouncy house
- volunteer to help at the "Prize Walk"
- assist kids, and adults, on and off the hayride
- bake cupcakes or cookies
- donate bags of individually wrapped candy
- donate funds to help with the costs of Trunk or Treat



Most of all, we need you! This is a Bethany outreach event! It's not a Halloween thing, not a fall festive, just an outreach to love on our community, letting kids have a little fun as we do so. We want to share all that Bethany has to offer with our neighbors! Invite your family, neighbors, and co-workers to this safe, family-friendly event. It will be FUN for all ages!

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

September already!?! Where did August go?! I truly believe that old saying ... "the older you get, the faster time goes." Man, does it ever! And as much as I tell myself to slow down and enjoy each and every day, I don't. I don't slow down. We all want to slow down! We just DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO SLOW DOWN!!

Slowing down is not something Bethany is doing either! Bethany is alive and thriving with many exciting things happening or on the horizon. We have a book study beginning September 7. We are starting up our nursery again during worship service, which provides a safe place for our folks, and visitors, to leave their children, not have to worry about them, and enjoy the worship service. Our Children's Ministries is starting up for the fall and Children's Church will begin after Labor Day. Pastor Blaine is meeting with and getting input from our youth so we can provide them with Bible studies, mission projects and fun activities just for them. There is a women's Bible study coming soon. The Men's Prayer Breakfast, Young at Hearts and Caring Cards continue every month. We have folks signing up to help greet on Sunday mornings and set up refreshments! Missions is collecting for children at South River Elementary School and for Kingsway Ministries. Soon, we'll be setting up our Apple Tree and be providing presents for children of incarcerated parents. And then of course, near and dear to my heart, is our big outreach project for our community, Trunk or Treat. We are doing the exact opposite of slowing down! We are moving right along ... becoming an active church with something for everyone! And we are showing and sharing the love of God as we move along, which is what our mission is! What a great church to be a part of!! More people are coming back to worship each month. Our giving is up! Not very often you will hear that during a summer month! Thank you all for sharing your gifts, talents and time! You are what makes this church an awesome place to worship. You are why we have so many things going on! You are a blessing to your church family and to your community!

August 21 - Week 34		
Budget	222,620.00	
Where We Should Be		145,591.10
Where We Are		<u>128,571.61</u>
Deficit of		17,019.49
Net Percentage		-11.7%

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

(Winston S. Churchill)

Trunk OR TREAT



Sunday, October 23 | 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!**



Our Trustees are sponsoring a "Church Clean-Up Day" on Saturday, September 10 beginning at 8 am!

We will concentrate on the outside unless we have numerous folks show up, and then we can focus on the inside too! Bring gloves, rakes, hedge trimmers, etc. We will be trimming shrubbery, mulching, raking and whatever else might need done!

Can you spare an hour or so early on a Saturday morning to help make Bethany look beautiful inside and out for our own folks and for our visitors? If so, please join us on September 10. Stay an hour. Stay two!



Are you telling me some people don't want to help in the Nursery?? Are they Crazy?? Have they seen how cute I am??



Please be in prayer for ...

Members:

Tom & Jan Gorden, Stump family, Randy Roller, Edie Smith, Carl Smith, Audrey Bradshaw, Hazel Truslow, Hudson Dunsmore, Carolyn Swartz, Geneva Burns, Ramona Garrison

Extended Members:

Kendra Roller - daughter-in-law of Randy & Annie Roller
Stephanie Christian - friend of Lorna Frizzelle
Bernice Hinkle - grandmother of Pastor Blaine

September

- 1 Jerry Cook
- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Laiken 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



October

- 1 Carolyn Roller
Tara Stroop
- 2 Wayne Frizzelle
- 3 Linda Byers
Landon Ryan
- 4 Brantley Metcalfe
- 6 Mary Beth Hill
Stephen Metcalfe
- 10 Jan Peterson
- 16 Maecy Anne Frizzelle
- 19 Jennifer Cook
- 20 John Hull
- 21 Barbara Somers
Wyatt Dunsmore

- 22 Jan Fulton
Beth Metcalfe
- 23 Tom Ott
Tobias Casey
- 29 Lois Huffer
Ruth Ann Mikesell
Amy Michael
- 30 Kim Hull
Mary Tyree
- 31 Doug Hiner
Leslie Wagoner



September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am - 12 pm Coffee with the Pastor - Valley Pike 	2	3 
4	5  Office Closed NO Food Pantry	6 10 am - Caring Cards 6 pm - Worship Meeting	7 10 am - Pastor Blaine's Book Study 7 pm - Pastor Blaine's Book Study	8 3-5 pm Coffee with the Pastor Valley Pike	9	10 8 am - Church Clean Up Day 
11  WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES 10 am - Note Time Change	12 	13 6:30 pm - Missions Meeting	14 10 am - Pastor Blaine's Book Study 7 pm - Pastor Blaine's Book Study	15 9:30 am - 12 pm Coffee with the Pastor - Valley Pike Table & Chairs Reserved Thru 	16	17 8 am 
18	19 6:30 pm - Trunk or Treat Planning Meeting	20 October Newsletter Deadline	21 10 am - Pastor Blaine's Book Study 7 pm - Pastor Blaine's Book Study	22 3-5 pm Coffee with the Pastor Valley Pike 	23	24 
25 10:30 am - Youth Meet with the Pastor after Worship!	26 	27	28 10 am - Pastor Blaine's Book Study 7 pm - Pastor Blaine's Book Study	29 9:30 am - 12 pm Coffee with the Pastor - Valley Pike 	30 	

Bethany United Methodist Church

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www.mybethanyumc.org



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Blaine Thomas, Pastor
(850) 508-7245
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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Oct. Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 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