

The Echo

August 2023

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Missions Update
- 4 Krispy Kreme Fundraiser
- 5 A Few Announcements
- 6 BUM Bites & Financial Update
- 7 "Bethany" by Jac Bridges & Church Picture Directory
- 8 "Kiss a Goat" Contest, Birthdays & Prayer List
- 9 August Calendar
- 10 Grillin' & Chillin'
- 11 Coloring Page

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 20 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's a great time to catch up with folks and just sit and relax!

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



From the Pastor's

Desk . . .

Greetings Bethany UMC Family,

As some of you may know, I have just returned from Montana, where I had the honor and privilege of officiating the wedding of my sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Montana is a beautiful state and on the Sunday after the wedding, the family took a road trip up the Beartooth Pass to sit atop of the Rockies. As we climbed from 5,500 ft. above sea level to 11,500 ft.; I was amazed by the gigantic mountains (the ones that make ours look like big hills) and the drastic cliffs. The way the mountain peaks overlook these small crystal clear lakes was just amazing. As we were driving up the switchbacks, I could not help but notice the horse power that the van was putting to venture up the mountain. To get up the mountain was a task for that 2023 Chrysler Pacifica. As I was

in the back seat of the van (trying to not get carsick), I thought about how we are all on a journey heavenward and oftentimes it seems that we are not making much headway. Some days we are putting in so much effort and energy just to keep us from back-sliding down the treacherous mountain roads. I was reminded of Philippians 3:14 which encourages us to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Just like that van kept pushing and revving, we too are encouraged to keep moving upward because when we get to the peak... it will be so, so worth it my friends. At the top of the mountain, after the hour long journey, we played, laughed, and pelted one another with snowballs. It was a very good end to a treacherous

drive. I too believe that when we make it to the top, that we will be welcomed to play, laugh, and feast with the Lord. But until then, we have to hold onto those fleeing moments at the top of the mountain. We have to remind ourselves that we are in this thing together and we have to push one another to make it up the mountain. And when we start backsliding we need to be able to grab ahold of God's promise, that no matter how fast we start to fall, we can trust that God is not in the business of leaving us. So praise God that, "The best of all is that God is with us."

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine



Blood Drive

To commemorate 9/11 and the needs of our neighbors, we at Bethany UMC will be hosting a Blood Drive in the fellowship hall on September 9 from 9 am - 2 pm. Sign Up online at www.redcrossblood.org or on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Every donation helps save lives in our local and neighboring communities. We need lots more folks to sign up! Stop by the Welcome Center and sign up today please!! You know Pastor Blaine's story and why this is so important to him. Let's support him! And our neighbors!



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

Hello, August! My goodness, how the summer flies. It is county fairs and back-to-school time. Whew!!! Everybody get ready because it is here whether you want it to be or not. Good luck to all the students and teachers out there in the Bethany family.

Be sure to put your donations into the jar of the person you want to see kiss the goat at Trunk or Treat. You can choose from Pastor Blaine Thomas, Bill Kile, Dale Roller, and Bridgett Crawford. All money collected will go towards paying off the roof that we put on the church last summer. We are still in need of a little over \$4000.

We are helping sponsor the blood drive on Saturday, September 9, and we are going to have a bake sale during this time. If you are willing to make a baked good for us, please let Lori Mooney know. We will take whatever you are willing to make us ... cookies, cakes, pies, bars, krispy treats, biscuits, bread, etc. We are also going to pre-sale Krispy Kreme doughnuts that people can pick up that day from the church. You will have about a month and pre-sale order forms will have to be turned in by August 27th. All money made from the bake sale and doughnut sales will go towards the money needed to buy the drugs and medicine for the Honduras mission trip in October and left over funds will go towards paying off the roof fund. This

will be a fun-filled day. Please plan on helping in some way.

Mission spotlight of the month:

Habitat for Humanity in Staunton. Their mission is: "Building and restoring homes, lives, and communities through faith." They do not work on repairs or emergencies. They are a strategic partnership with the person to take control of their family's financial state through home ownership. You can shop at the Restore in Staunton and the funds go to help build these homes for people that need them. If you would like to donate to Habitat for Humanity, please be sure to note that in the memo part of your check or put a note with cash donations.

If you know of someone who needs help, please let us know.

Lori Mooney, co-chair, Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com
540-820-7394

Nancy Colvin, co-chair, nwcolvin@gmail.com
540-910-0272

A Little Humor ...

A Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.

"What is this? she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.

"Well ... who's the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius, the pilot."

What did Moses say when he came down the mountain and saw the Israelites worshipping a golden calf? HOLY COW!

Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath? It seemed like a GIANT ordeal.





Let's Rai\$e Some Dough!

Mission's will be conducting a "Krispy Kreme" Doughnut Fundraiser! Beginning Sunday, August 6 through Youth Sunday, August 27, mission's will be taking preorders for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Forms will be available at the Welcome Center for you to pick up to record your order and orders for your family and friends. There will also be a sign-up

sheet for you to write your order on at the Welcome Center. All orders should be prepaid by Sunday, August 27. Please mark your check "Krispy Kreme Fundraiser" or place cash in an envelope also marked with "Krispy Kreme Fundraiser" on the front and place in the offering plate or in the secretary's mailbox outside of the restrooms.

Donuts will be fresh and can be picked up at the church on Saturday, September 9 during our scheduled

Blood Drive in the fellowship hall.

We will also be having a bake sale during the blood drive and ask all you talented bakers to donate one of your famous baked items ... cookies, cakes, pies, bars, rise Krispy treats, bread, muffins, etc. All proceeds from donut sales and from the bake sale will go towards the Honduras trip at the end of September. Gary Lucas and Pastor Blaine will both be going on this mission trip.



Ushers & Greeters Needed!

If you would be interested in being either an usher or a greeter, please talk to Jackie Dunsmore or Mary Beth Schwab.

It's easy and it's not an every Sunday commitment!

You will be a big part of making a good first impression on our visitors & members. And who doesn't like being greeted with a bright smile, warm handshake or a friendly hug as you enter the church!



Women's Ministries

If you would like to be part of Women's Ministries (and you know you do!), 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 20 at 5:30 pm. We need you and your ideas for events.

A Women's Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10 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!!** Plus it's not a huge time commitment. Show up! You'll be glad you did!!

Young at Hearts



Join Young at Hearts on Tuesday, August 1 at 12 noon for lunch at O'Neil's in Harrisonburg. If you are 55 or older, but still young at heart, you are invited to join this fun group! There will be good food, good conversation and lots of laughs! No commitment. Come when you can. Want more information? Please contact Carolyn Swartz.



Caring Cards

This is a group of caring folks who meet on the second Tuesday of every month

to write notes of encouragement or get well wishes to others in the church that need a little pick-me-up. In August, they will meet on August 8 at 10 am at the church.

Church Council Meeting



There will be a Church Council meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. ALL committee chairs and church officers are encouraged to attend. All other members and regular attenders are invited to attend also. If you have something to put on the agenda, please contact Cindy Kite in the church office at office.bethany@gmail.com. Minutes of all meetings are available upon request.



Thank You!

Thank you to all the folks who have mowed the church lawn this spring and summer!! You keep our lawn looking well kept and inviting to visitors ... and members ... as they drive up the driveway to church. What a great first impression. Those who have mowed so far this year are Bill Kile, Mark Dunsmore, Stanley Houff, and Gary Ruleman. The Frizzelle and Simmons' families will be mowing the month of August. Thank you for volunteering your time! Be sure to thank each of them!

Also, thank you to Bill Kile, Mark Dunsmore and Donald Michael for their work on the A/V platform that is being built in the back of the sanctuary. Please be patient, it will be completed

in just a few short weeks!

And thank you to Nancy Colvin for her awesome "Majoring in the Minors" window decorations. You sure captured the theme of "baseball." You always do a great job providing flowers on Sunday mornings and décor for our sanctuary windows. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer your time and talent.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The Men's Prayer Breakfast group is on summer break. They will begin to meet again on September 16 at 8 am. All men are invited to come be a part of this group! It's a good time when they start back up for fall in September!



BUM BITES



The BUM Youth have been busy this summer! They went on youth mission trip to Lock Haven, PA the end of June. One of the highlights of the trip was their work they completed on the first day. They tore a building down and built a deck for a lady who could not accomplish this on her own. This allowed the homeowner to access her backyard for the first time in a long time. The youth saw how this was going to change her life and be able to go outside with her grandkids. They also bonded with devotions everyday that were previously recorded by other members of the church.

The Dunsmore's were gracious enough to host a pool party in July! The youth ate pizza, swam and played games in the pool, while also having a

devotion based on Matthew 6:31-33. The youth dug deep into what it means to have new beginnings and challenges but also know that God is always with them because we are His masterpiece. If He provides for the birds and the flowers, He will definitely provide everything we need in life! God always prevails!

The youth look forward to youth Sunday on August 27th, where they are in charge of worship and showing the church how their mission trip was a success. In addition, they will conduct and celebrate baptisms in the river.



Big things are happening for the youth! Make sure to congratulate them and ask them how God is moving in their life!

Blessings to you,
Bridgett Crawford

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

I've been sitting here for two days wondering what I'm going to write this month ... not the same ole boring things about being behind on our giving this year? I've been asking God to "lay it on me" ... what is it he wants me to say! All I hear is "write about all the good stuff that's going on at Bethany."

So, okay, here goes. We are just concluding a women's bible study on the book of Ruth. It was led by Becky McCarty and Barbara Somers. It was well attended and when all of us showed up, there were approximately 14 ladies. That's awesome! Our seniors are still meeting for lunch every month at a local restaurant. Caring Cards are sending get well cards and notes of encouragement and thank you cards to folks within the congregation. What a great ministry ... letting someone know that they are being thought about! Pastor Blaine is holding coffee and dinner dates with us each month to get to know us a little better. I am getting ready to start Women's Ministries back up with hopefully, the help of a lot of good women out there ... young and old! Our youth just came back from their mission trip in Pennsylvania and you will be hearing about that on Sunday, August 27 and some of our youth getting baptized at 2 pm that day in the river!! Oh, and don't forget about our Annual Ice Cream Social. It is on the 20th of this month with lots of homemade dishes and then homemade ice cream!! It's my favorite fellowship of the summer. There's a blood drive on September 9 in the fellowship hall. And you'll be hearing lots more about our "Grillin' & Chillin' Friday Night." It will be a night to just chill with some live music, food, a bonfire, and making s'mores! And don't forget about Trunk or Treat coming October 22. Whew, we are a busy church!

When you give, these are some of the things you are providing funds to make happen. These things mean our church is alive and thriving! Please keep giving and do it on a regular basis. Or if you're not, please think about just giving \$5 or \$10 each week. That will make a difference!! Hopefully August will be the month we catch up!

July 23 - Week 30		
Budget	225,467.00	
Where We Should Be		130,077.00
Where We Are		112,834.76
Deficit of		(17,242.24)
Net Percentage		-13.3%

Bethany by Jac Bridges

When I was asked to write an article for the Echo I felt hesitant ... I am not a good writer, I don't know what to write, etc. I have always been told to write about something I was passionate about so God gave me these words.

I am passionate about Bethany United Methodist Church. Bethany is very blessed with great leaders that lead the youth and young adults as well as great mentors. Some of my friends have attended other churches and say there's nothing there for them. At Bethany there is so much support. I have attended Annual Conference and can see how Bethany is different in the way young people are loved and supported. Youth delegates have declined at Annual Conference. Is it because there are dying churches and not enough younger teens and adults involved with church? Whatever the cause of the decline, I look at myself and my life at Bethany and know I am indeed blessed.

When I joined the church I was given a mentor. This mentor has continued to be there for me. I know that many members love me and genuinely care about me. These members tell me and show me in many ways. It would be easy for members not to accept me, as I am not the typical young adult stereotype ... instead I'm from a single parent household, bi-racial, substance abuse in my family, gay friends, incarcerated family members, and the

**Instead of
excluding me,
my Bethany
family has
loved and
accepted me.**

list could go on and on. Instead of excluding me, my Bethany family has loved and accepted me.

I was told that we are not to judge people. I would get angry when I would visit family and there would be alcohol visible and also see it consumed. I was told there is only one judge, our Lord, and that we do not have to agree with what is before us, but we should love and pray for that person. I was never unsafe but also was not shielded from wrong doings. This exposure has helped me stay away from peer pressure and speak up for myself when in certain situations. If

we as Bethany don't "accept," pray, forgive and love ALL people, not meaning we have to approve of all behaviors, the world will. Reaching out to those that are alone, hopeless, lost in the world's craziness, and feel unworthy to attend church is important. Having depression myself, I have been in that dark place and probably would have felt like giving up if I hadn't been shown love and forgiveness. God is a gracious loving God that keeps us all safe. I want to be there for those who don't know the power of God's love and hopefully you do too.

I want to close with my favorite verse

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

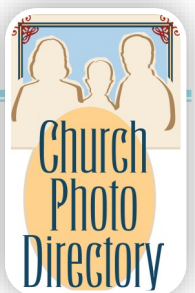
Let's Update the Church Directory by Cindy Kite

We need to update our church picture directory!! A picture directory lets folks put names to the faces they see. **I'm asking everyone to submit a family or individual photo, preferably taken outside to put in the directory.** Have someone take one with your cellphone and then just email it to me at office.bethany@gmail.com. I will be available to take photos from the middle to the end of July and early August. I will have my camera at church on Sundays ... if I'm here, my camera will be with me!

I also need updated addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and birthdays (month, day and year please). Have no fear, the year will not be published in the directory. It will only be seen by myself or Pastor Blaine and will go into our database. Most should have received

an Information Form by email. Please fill it out and bring it to church with you or email it back to me by August 10. There are copies at the Welcome Center. **We need everyone's participation!** If you bring it to church, please leave it in the "Secretary's" mailbox across from the ladies restroom in the foyer or place in the offering plate or hand it to me.

Once I have all the information I need, I will print a copy and leave it in the foyer for each family to check to make sure the picture is okay and that all personal information is correct. After that I will get them printed. If you would like one, the cost will be \$8.00. If you have a binder already and just need to replace the inside, the cost will be \$4.00. The cost is to cover the nice paper it is printed on and the binder. If you would like one emailed to you, the cost is free. **And thanks in advance for your participation!!!**





Who Do You Want to See Kiss a Goat?!

Not you, right!?? Well, who, at church, would you like to see kiss a goat? Would you be willing to pay to see one of our folks kiss a goat?! There are 4 jars on a table in the foyer. Each jar will have one of the following names on it ... Pastor Blaine, Bridgett Crawford, Dale Roller and Bill Kile. You can donate money by placing it in the jar with the name of the person you would like to see kiss a goat. This contest will continue through October. The person who has the most money in their jar will be kissing a goat at our Annual Trunk or Treat. All proceeds from our Kiss a Goat contest will go towards the Capital Building Fund to help offset the \$4,115.21 still needed for the new roof last year.

Wondering who's in the lead? Pastor Blaine is leading the line to kiss the goat!! So far we have collected \$1,338.69 of the \$4,000 we're short on the roof. If your person isn't in the lead, make a donation today!

Thank you for your prayers!

Dear Bethany Church Family ...

Thank you for all the prayers, monetary gifts, and the many other gifts and acts of kindness you've shown our family. We love each and every one of you!

-- Abby, Josh and Layla

A BIG THANK YOU to Lori Mooney, who made the time to come help me do some cleaning that I could not do myself. You are so appreciated.

-- Aubrey Bradshaw

Please be in prayer for ...

Members: Don & Hazel Truslow, Peggy Lucas, Gary Ruleman

Extended Family: Charlie Mason - heart issues recovery - friend of Dale Roller

Michael - lung surgery - son-in-law of Gary & Bettina Ruleman

Mike - Parkinson's - husband of Kathleen Stump

Michelle - medical issues - daughter of Diana Eicher

Bradley Penix - 11 year old with cancer - grandson of Floyd & Sarah Cobell

Tristin - Riverheads student shot, in critical condition at UVA and for the 2 who were responsible for the shooting

August

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



- 24 Hazel Truslow
- 30 Carolyn Swartz
Eddie Moyer
Kevin Stroop

September

- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Laiken "Happy" Huffer
- 8 Randy Kite
- 11 Mary Beth Schwab
- 12 Bridgett Crawford
- 15 Grant Simmons
- 18 Hattie Castle
- 19 Mia McLaughlin

- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael
- 24 Elva Shifflett
- 26 Weezer Crawford

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



August 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon at O'Neil's 	2 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study (Last session for "Ruth")	3	4	5 <i>be silly. be honest. be kind.</i>
6 Jim Harris - guest speaker 	7 4 pm - Food Pantry 6 pm - Worship Meeting	8 10 am - Caring Cards	9	10 9 am - 12 pm - Coffee with the Pastor at Valley Pike 6:30 pm - Women's Ministry Meeting 	11	12
13 	14 4 pm - Food Pantry	15 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	16 	17	18	19
20 5:30 pm - Ice Cream Social 	21 Articles for the September Newsletter Due! 4 pm - Food Pantry	22 	23	24 3 - 4:30 pm - Coffee with the Pastor at Valley Pike 	25	26 
27 Youth Sunday! 2 pm - Baptisms at the River - all are invited	28	29	30	31		
Cindy on Vacation !! 						

Praise You Anywhere
by
Brandon Lake

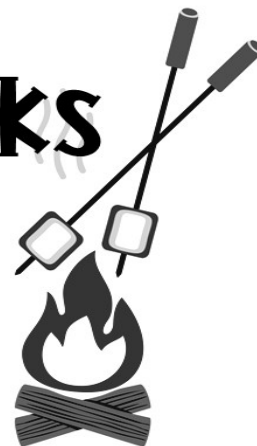
Sometimes you've gotta dance through the darkness
 Sing through the fire, praise when it don't make sense
 Sometimes you've gotta stare down the giant
 Sometimes you've gotta shout it from the mountain
 Louder in the valley, trusting that He's gonna get you there
 Sometimes you've gotta welcome the wonder
 Wait for the answer, worship with your hands in the air
 I'll praise you anywhere

Grillin' & Chillin'



Friday, Sept. 15
6 pm

Hotdogs, Chips & Drinks
Live Music
Bonfire & S'mores



An evening to just hang out, enjoy some good food,
listen to some live music, chill by the fire,
get to know your neighbors and make s'mores!
Don't forget to bring your chairs!

Bethany UMC, 3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave
Free to All



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Sunday, August 20

The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
(540) 234-8880
www.mybethanyumc.org

Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Pastor
(850) 508-7245
blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Danny Perry, Sexton

Sept. Newsletter Deadline: August 20, 2023

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