

The Echo

August 2024

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Missions Update
- 4 A Note from Pastor Don
- 5 A Note from Pastor Brad
- 6 A Note from Pastor John
- 7 A Few Announcements
- 8 Finance Update, Birthdays & Prayer List
- 9 August Calendar



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

Our Annual Ice Cream Social!!

Sunday, August 18 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!



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.

From the Pastor's

Desk . . .

Dear Beloved Bethany Family,

As the heat continues to bear down on us here in the Valley, we also know the temperature of our country seems to be at an all time high, after an assassination attempt of former President Trump and the upcoming election in November. With that being said, I wanted to share this letter from the UMC Council of Bishops, which make up all of the United Methodist Bishops in the United States. I hope this letter is encouraging, and helps all of us look inwards before we respond outwardly. May we even more now, than before, live into being "God's agents as healers, peacemakers, and bridge builders in a troubled and hurting world.

Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
Press Release for immediate release
July 16, 2024

"Following the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald J. Trump, the world is in deep sorrow and reflection. We absolutely condemn this act of violence. As people of faith, we are called to love one another and follow the example of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way to love, peace, and reconciliation. Christ calls us to be peacemakers in a world that often resorts to hate, violence, and division.

The polarization of political beliefs has created a divided world that often breeds discord. As United Methodists, we are committed to seeking non-violent ways to resolve our differences. We denounce all acts of hatred and violence against groups or individuals. We are called

to resist the temptation to engage in such acts and speech and commit to the work of compassion, peace, and unity.

As Christ's followers, we are called to be healers in our churches, communities, countries, and the world. In these times of political tension and disagreement, we must remember our shared humanity, the sacred worth, and the inherent dignity of every person.

It is at times like this that God is calling us to renew our commitment to non-violence and remember our baptism vows, which urge us to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. Our baptism vows compel us to accept the freedom and power that God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

We urge all United Methodists to denounce the divisive rhetoric and violence pervading our society and work towards creating paths of reconciliation, dialogue, and non-violent solutions to our differences. May we love one another and build bridges towards peace and unity.

We pray for former President Trump, his family, and all those affected by this tragic event. We also extend our heartfelt prayers to the families of those who were injured and those who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence. May God's comforting presence be with them in their time of need.

May God grant us grace to be God's agents as healers, peacemakers, and bridge builders in a troubled and hurting world.

We look forward to the day when all people "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)"

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

Happy August and you know what that means for the kiddos..... sorry, but school will start this month. For some earlier than others, so enjoy your last week or couple weeks of summer break. Good luck to the students and the teachers. Hope everyone has a wonderful year ahead of them.

A huge THANK YOU to those of you who donated to the hygiene products that we collected for Kingsway Outreach and to honor Louise Jennings. There were quite a few boxes that we delivered to Kingsway and they were very appreciative. Also, thank you to the Williams family who headed up the food for the event. Everything provided by our wonderful people from Bethany was very yummy. THANK YOU, again!

We have put together some fundraising nights with local restaurants to raise some money for Gary and Blaine to go with Friends of Barnabas to Honduras in September. If you were able to go to Panera Bread in Waynesboro on Friday the 26th, thank you for your donation. The next one is Tuesday, August 6th at Bridgewater Dominos. This is an all-day event. Take your flyer or show on your phone, so we get the credit. The last one will be at Texas Roadhouse in Harrisonburg on Monday, August 26 from 4:00pm until 9:00pm. Show the flyer or on. Please share

these nights and flyers with friends and family because the more orders people make, then the more donations that we have. Thank you, in advance, for choosing to support these events. If you choose to just donate, please make sure that it is marked for Friends of Barnabas, mission trip, or Drugs and Medicine.

Mission spotlight of the month: our own church. Over the past couple of months, we have had to replace the air conditioning unit in the sanctuary, the ice maker, and the frig in the kitchen. These are over our normal expenditures, so if you have it in your heart to make another donation this month, please earmark it “Building Needs” to help pay for these new items. Thanks.

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

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

Sarah Simmons, co-chair, sarahsimmons4@aol.com, 540-292-0956



MY YEARS AT BETHANY (1996-2006)

by Pastor Don Hawks

To all the saints at Bethany: *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 3:2)

I was appointed to serve as pastor to Bethany during the summer of 1996 and it became my honor to serve for 10 years at Bethany ... the longest pastoral tenure in the church's history thus far. As I prepared this reflection, I began thinking about the many individuals and families who were a part of the congregation during that time. I thought of the many people with whom I served in the various ministry areas, the times we came together in worship services, and the numerous opportunities to serve others through my pastoral care. I loved every individual at Bethany regardless of whether we totally agreed or disagreed-or somewhere in between-on issues and challenges we faced together as a congregation. As I ponder my years at Bethany and the years since, this scripture comes to mind: *I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.* (Philippians 3:3-5 NRSV)

My years at Bethany were not without conflicts and controversy at times. We made mistakes and needed to learn from those mistakes. Yet through it all, we tried to seize these challenges as opportunities for growth and change. For the most part, these challenges led to positive outcomes. Thus, I have chosen to focus on the positive outcomes and experiences.

During my time at Bethany, leadership discussed and explored ways to clearly define a purpose-driven mission and vision of the church. As part of that process, we attempted to set achievable goals. We talked and prayed together about how to grow in the service of Christ as individual members and as a congregation. The result was an increase in community outreach and nurturing our own spiritual lives through small groups and ministry opportunities.

One result of the leadership development was that we sensed the need to add a second worship service. Our goals for adding the service were to reach out to those outside of the church building and to present the good



news of Jesus in a relevant and meaningful way. After time researching, praying and planning, we concluded that the best approach to accomplish this goal was to design a contemporary approach to the worship experience. The response to the service was beyond my wildest expectations beginning on the first Sunday we launched the service. The process of this service was not without challenges at times. It seemed initially we took three steps forward and ten steps backward, but because of the commitment of dedicated worship and music leaders who believed we were following the mission of

the church, we were able to move forward. These twenty some years later, the contemporary approach to worship continues to thrive at Bethany.

As I see it, the establishment of the new worship service gave us the opportunity to reach out to people moving into the new development of the nearby Harshbarger subdivision. Our witness ministry made a concerted effort to welcome our new neighbors. As a result, several individuals and families from that development became a part of Bethany and many of those persons still serve in ministry at Bethany today.

For me, one of the most exciting aspects of worship and outreach is when we moved our worship services for a couple of Christmas seasons and an Easter service to the Weyers Cave Community Center to include musical multimedia presentations. I was again blown away by the response to these events by both the congregation and the community. We were able to reach out to many people from the community who attended the services.

What I present here is only a small part of all that we accomplished together during my ten years at Bethany. We also made significant strides with building and grounds projects, including the parking lot expansion. It was a sad time as I moved to a new appointment in 2006, but I was gratified at how we were a small part of the greater church's attempt to carry out the great commission of Jesus.

As during my time at Bethany, today I urge the Bethany congregation to continue to discern how to carry out that Great Commission. I like the way Jesus' charge to his followers is expressed

Continued on next page

My Time at Bethany con't ...

in *The Message* paraphrase: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).



Dear Bethany friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you are well in body and soul.

I thank God every time I think of you, for the first time we met way back in 2009, for our seven years of active ministry together, and for the eight years since I have been gone.

You were so gracious to me, to take a young, inexperienced pastor and teach me how to lead you in the ministry of Jesus Christ. I hold in my heart many fond

memories of our time together, from youth mission trips to monthly Young at Hearts lunches, from JAM Sessions with the children to Sunday school and weekly worship. I am proud of the small groups that we developed as a way to disciple one another in the ministry of Jesus Christ, and the food pantry that we established which fed thousands of people in the six short years that we shared that work together.

Congratulations on your 70th anniversary! I am so grateful that I have been able to be a small part of the Bethany story.

The church we love so much has come a long way from Naked Creek. You have grown in faith and in people numbers. You have added new ministries and reached new people. And yet some of the most important things have not changed at all: the loveliness of the congregation, the commitment to the mission, and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I wish you another 70 years of faithfulness. May the seeds that you plant today bear fruit for generations to come, until the great day when Jesus returns to raise all the saints from the dead and we meet once again in God's heaven.

In the meantime, let me encourage you with the words of Paul to the Colossians:

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (2:6-7).

The peace of Christ be with you, now and always.

Love,
Pastor Brad



come celebrate with us on Sunday, September 8!!

Happy Birthday Bethany! by John Lock

Hello Church. Bethany is 70 years old! Woohoo! You are carrying your age very well!

My name is Pastor John Lock and I was blessed to have the joy in serving Bethany UMC. I was Pastor from 2016 to 2019. This seems like decades ago now, yet I have many blessed memories from my time here.

I often speak of the many missional moments at Bethany. Bethany is an extremely caring and giving church. I experienced this at the Food Pantry, experiences on the mission trips, moments preparing for welcoming folks to worship and times helping folks in the community with needs that arose. I found folks at Bethany to be most kind and caring on how they could

serve The Lord in real ways.

I appreciate even to this day how members of the church were willing to think outside of the box. A willingness to do things in unique and God inspired ways. I was proud when the church was willing to try something new, even when the odds seemed mounting. The church community was flexible in ways where God could use them to be helpful and loving.

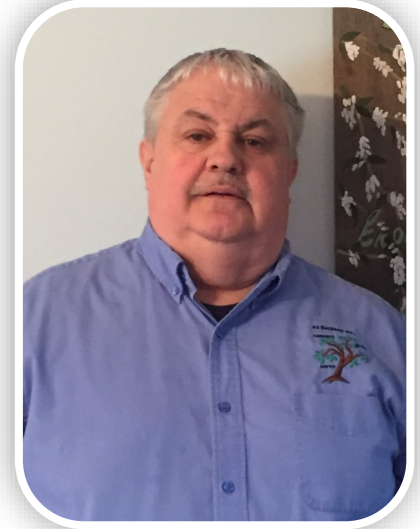
Some of my favorite memories are the awesome talents of Bethany folks. I always thanked God for the beautiful singing and playing during worship times. There were so many insightful and inspired thinkers that would use their gifts for the whole church. We had times where we could see God use Bethany.

I found this to be a precious time in my ministry to experience these gifts. And Bethany folks always presented their

thoughts and gifts, humbly, lovingly and without pretense or pride. Pastor Mary (my wife) and I still speak to this day how Bethany was a precious time and place. I am thankful for you loving me so.

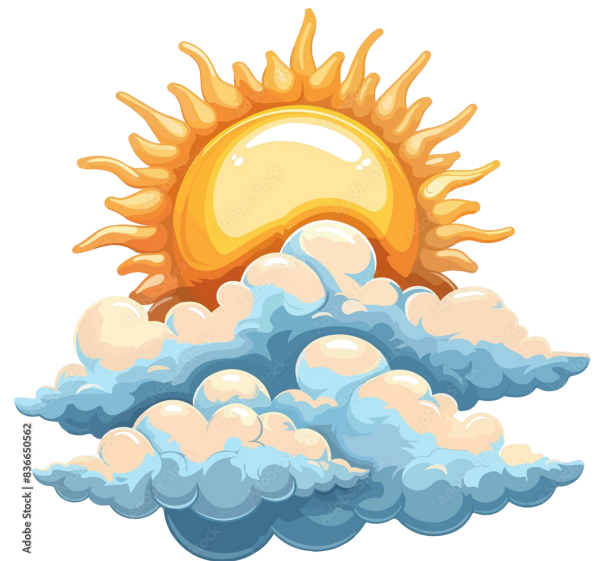
And Before I Forget To Tell You, God Loves You And So Do I!

Blessings, Pastor John Lock



Hallelujah Feeling by Caleb and John

Oh just because it's raining
Doesn't mean the sun won't shine
There's a season for the struggle
And a season for the prize
But my hope is never fading
Cause it's anchored in the truth
My Father goes before me
And His joy will see me through
I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go



70th Anniversary Planning Meeting

If you would like to help plan events for our 70th Anniversary Celebration, you are invited to attend a meeting on Monday, August 5 at 6 pm. If you would like to help but can't make the meeting, please contact Pastor Blaine.



pick-me-up. However, due to scheduling conflicts they will meet on Monday, August 12 at 10 am. Come and join them!!

Coffee Hours

Make plans to join Pastor Blaine at Valley Pike's Rumor Mill for some coffee, tea, or whatever you would like on Thursday, August 8 from 9:30 am - 12 pm. There's always fun and interesting conversations! He will also have coffee hours on Thursday, August 22 from 3:30 - 5 pm if you can't make it on the 8th.

Church Council Meeting



There will be a Church Council meeting on Tuesday, August 20 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.



Young at Hearts

Join Young at Hearts on Tuesday, August 6 at 12 noon for lunch at Wood Grill 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 Leslie Wagoner! Thanks Leslie for being willing to lead this awesome group!!

Finance & SPPRC Meetings



There will be a Finance meeting on Monday, August 12 at 6 pm. Please let Jane Elkins know if you are unable to attend. Following the Finance meeting, there will be an SPPRC meeting at 7 pm. Please let Randy Roller know if you are unable to attend.

Thank You!



Thank you to the Trustee Committee for all the improvements you've had to make to our church building so far this year ... a new A/C unit for the sanctuary, a new ice maker to replace the one that died and the one that never lived! Oh, and also the new refrigerator in the kitchen. You all do so much to keep our building in good shape. And you do it all behind the scenes. So, THANK YOU!!

Trustee Meeting

There will be a Trustee meeting on Tuesday, August 6 at 7 pm. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please let Mark Dunsmore know.

Caring Cards



This is a group of caring folks who usually 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

Donuts & Devotions

Donuts & Devotions, our men's group here at Bethany, will meet on Saturday, August 17 at 8 am. There will be lots of donut eating. Coffee drinking. Praying. Devotion sharing. And some fantastic fellowshiping. If you haven't attended a meeting before, please come give us a try. There is no commitment. Just come when you can. They meet the 3rd Saturday of each month.



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Can you believe that two-thirds of the summer is already come and gone!! It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Memorial Day and we'll be celebrating Labor Day before we know it!! I hope you have been enjoying your summer ... vacations, family outings, picnics, time with family and friends.

CELEBRATE ... the definition of celebrate is ... "acknowledge, a significant or happy day or event, with a social gathering or enjoyable activity." In just a few weeks Bethany is going to "celebrate" its 70th Anniversary ... a significant and happy day! I encourage each of you to take part in this happy day as we hold our homecoming on Sunday, September 8 with a special worship service. Following the worship service there will be a luncheon for all. Meat and drinks will be provided and you are asked to bring a side dish to share with all. We will have lots of visitors on that day; therefore, I would encourage all of you to bring a dish or two to share.

There are many folks who have attended Bethany in the past and left for one reason or another. If you know of someone whom you think needs to receive an invitation, please give me their name and current address and I will make sure they receive an invitation. You need to get those to me as soon as possible please.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center with a list of different areas we need help with ... set-up, clean-up, the meal, decorations, etc. Find an area that you can help with and sign up. This is an all hands on deck event. Bethany has always been a church family who will come together ... sometimes at the last minute ... and make an event happen. Not just happen, but be a very successful event. I know you will once again be present to do so. Let's all help to make this homecoming the very best yet!!

I will remind you that giving is down due to those summer activities and missed Sundays and encourage you to make an effort to give every Sunday or every month. Your church and all its ministries are counting on it.

July 21 - Week 29		
Budget	226,345.00	
Where We Should Be		125,532.59
Where We Are		115,040.64
Deficit of		(10,491.95)
Net Percentage		-8.4%

August

- 1 Eddie Lynn
- 3 Joe Meek
- 5 Bill Kite
- 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



30 Kevin Stroop

September

- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Laiken "Happy" Huffer
- 7 Abby Riddle
- 8 Randy Kite
- 9 Autumn Johnson
- 11 Mary Beth Schwab
- 12 Bridgett Crawford
- 15 Grant Simmons
- 18 Hattie Castle
- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael



24 Elva Shifflett

27 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!

Prayer List

Members: Laura Lucas, Carolyn Swartz, Tom & Jan Gorden, Don & Hazel Truslow

Extended Family: Jon Roller, son of Randy & Annie Roller, Layla - niece of Charlotte Saufley



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					<p>Pastor Blaine Out of the Office thru Sunday</p>	
4 Pastor Don Hawks is Guest Speaker	5 6 pm - 70th Anniversary Planning Meeting	6 12 pm - Young at Hearts (Wood Grill) 7 pm - Trustee Meeting	7 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	8 9:30 am -- 12 pm - Coffee Hours at Rumor Mill	9	10 2 pm - Celebration of Life Service for Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell
11 2 pm - River Baptism	12 10 am - Caring Cards 6 pm - Finance Meeting 7 pm - SPPRC Meeting	13 	14	15	16 	17 8 am - Donuts & Devotions
18 5:30 pm - Ice Cream Social 	19	20 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting September Newsletter Articles Due!	21	22 3:30 - 5 pm - Coffee Hours at Rumor Mill	23	24 
25	26 	27	28	29	30	31
<p>Cindy will be out of the office on vacation!</p>						

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Sunday, August 18

The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Danny Perry, Sexton

Sept. Newsletter Deadline: August 20, 2024

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