



The Echo

January/February 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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March Newsletter Deadline: February 17, 2025

Please submit articles to Latrice Scott at office.bethany@gmail.com

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From the Pastor's Desk....

Dear My Fellow Siblings in Christ,

Whew! Bring on February! Between the white freezing stuff on the ground, the multiple days of snow days, the lull after Christmas and New Year's, and then the season of gross illnesses: I do not know about you, but I am ready to turn the calendar. I saw a post that expressed how I felt this past month to the fullest, and it said: "I'm currently doing this challenge called January. Where you just try to make it through every day of January." Maybe your New Year's Resolution has already run out of gas, or the beginning of the New Year has just been plain exhausting. If that's the case...take a deep breath, know that God is with us in those moments, and know that you are in good company.

One thing that excites me for February (other than spring being a month closer) is that February invites all of us to dance off that holiday lull, get back into worship on Sunday mornings, and get involved with what makes Bethany so special. From women's ministry events that Elizabeth Williams has so lovingly led, to our men's Saturday morning group which is fearlessly led by Chuck McCarty; to kick off the year with our youth gathering at the Simmon's House on the 9th; to our children making Valentines for our Food Pantry neighbors; to the beginning of rehearsing for the Easter Choir, and everything else; there is much to be excited for. Now is the perfect time to re-commit to making your church family a priority. Now is the perfect time to make your walk with Jesus a non-negotiable. Because getting involved with the ministries and the mission opportunities we so readily have available is what is needed. So often, I hear folks grieve how Bethany does not have as much attendance as "such in such church" or that there are just no more young folks coming. Well to remedy that, let's be inviting everyone we know to come to church, and let's continue to be involved in caring for our community and God's Kingdom. No matter how old you are or how young you are, how pleasant you are, or how grumpy you are, all of us know people that need a place to call home...so invite them and do not be surprised by what the Holy Spirit has in store for the people of Bethany UMC.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

Prayer Lists.....

- Tom and Jan Gordon, Barbara Sommers, Kathy Frizzelle, Don and Hazel Truslow, Barbara Long
- The Michael family, as they grieve the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Charlene Michael.
- Kevin and Tara Stroop on the loss of Kevin's stepsister Sharon Surato Kiser.
- Pray for our community, country, and world.

Dates to Remember.....

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30 AM**
- **Cookies needed!!:** February 10th the children are distributing cookies and valentines at our food pantry. We need six more packages. This Sunday, February 9th, Valentine Making & Lunch after worship for the kids.
- **Young at Hearts:** February 4th at noon, O'Neil's in Harrisonburg
- **Coffee Hours:** February 6th, 9:30 am – 12 pm, Coffee Hours at Valley Pike Market
- **Youth:** February 9th from 12:30 – 2:30pm. Meeting at the Simmons House (331 Eakle Dr, Staunton, VA 24401). This event is for all middle school and high schoolers. Bring a friend!
- **Trustees:** February 11th @ 6:30 pm
- **Donuts & Devotions:** February 15th @ 8:00 am, All men are invited!
- **Worship Committee:** February 17th @ 6:00 pm
- **March Echo Articles Due:** February 17th, sent articles to the church at office.bethany@gmail.com
- **Administrative Council Meeting:** February 18th @ 6:30 pm
- **SPPRC:** February 19th @ 6:00 pm
- **Easter Choir Practice:** Wednesdays, February 19th, 6:30 – 7:45 pm, February 26th, 6:30 – 7:45 pm
- **Ash Wednesday:** March 5th @ 6:00 pm – Dinner and interactive activities, family friendly

Inspirational Quote.....

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." - Martin Luther King

February Birthdays.....

1 st	Jackie Dunsmore	13 th	Rebecca Castle
	Megan Kile	14 th	Bradley Dunsmore
2 nd	Reid Hill	17 th	Ashley Oliver-Thomas
3 rd	Gary Ruleman	18 th	Laura Lucas
4 th	Pam Lynn	21 st	Sandra Campbell
	Ron Castle		
6 th	Dylan Snyder		

If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at office.bethany@gmail.com

Card Shower.....



61st Wedding Anniversary for Don and Hazel Truslow. 259 Oakland Farm Rd, Weyers Cave, VA 24486

Staff Spotlight Latrice Scott



Hello! I'm Latrice Scott the Office Manager and Treasurer here at Bethany UMC. I was born and raised in Asbury Park, NJ. I, along with my children moved to Staunton, VA for a fresh start back in 2016. With over 10 years in Administrative & HR support, I specialize in record management as well as financial planning. My role here at Bethany UMC involves overseeing the day-to-day administrative operations, ensuring smooth functioning by managing tasks like scheduling meetings, managing office supplies, maintaining filing systems, coordinating communication, handling visitor reception, and generally ensuring a productive work environment for all staff & members. I'm passionate about discovering new ways to bring organization and to Create and maintain a workable budget that ensures Bethany UMC can continue to thrive and be a beacon of hope for our valued members and community. Outside of work, you can find me reading and crafting with my children. I'm excited to learn and Grow with our team and contribute to the overall success here at Bethany UMC. Feel free to reach out if you'd

like to discuss ways I can assist or just to say hello!

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about raising my children as well as becoming the best version of myself.

What's your favorite Bible verse?

My favorite bible verse is Psalm 147:3.

Favorite movie?

I do not have a favorite movie But I love anything made by Marvell.

Who inspires you?

My late Grandmother Gloria Williams inspires me.

What was your childhood ambition?

My childhood ambition was to open a group home for underage girls who are too old to be placed into foster homes.

What was your first job?

My first job was a cashier at Shoprite (Grocery store).

How do you spend your free time?

I spend my free time reading and writing in my journal.

Update on Youth Director Position.....

On behalf of the Bethany family, we want to thank Bridgett Crawford for her hard work and dedication to the youth ministry here at Bethany. Bridgett has been a faithful servant, and we know our youth have benefited from her experience and influence. We are saddened that she must leave our fellowship, but we commend her desire to worship and follow Christ as a family unit. We wish her the very best in her new church home and all her future endeavors.

As for us moving forward, we have already begun a search for our new director of youth ministries here at Bethany UMC. We would invite and encourage those in the congregation to get the word out that we are looking for a part-time youth director. This position will be a part-time job where we expect the youth director will normally work 5 to 6 hours a week and be paid on an hourly basis at the rate of \$18.00 per hour. The youth director will oversee, organize, and implement youth activity programs for the Middle and High School youth students. Please have any interested applicants, email their resume to Randy Roller (rroller74@gmail.com) and to Pastor Blaine Oliver-Thomas (blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org). In the meantime, Pastor Blaine will oversee youth activities, and we encourage all our Bethany family to continue to support and love on our youth!

Sincerely,

Randy Roller, Pastor Blaine, and the SPPRC

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Ahhh, February. The Month of Love. Happy Valentine's Day to you all. Adult Missions wants to say that we love you all and appreciate all that you do for us. Whenever we ask for things, you always provide. Thank you for being such a loving and giving church family.

We have missed several months of the newsletter, but back and rolling now. A big welcome to Latrice as our new secretary and treasurer of the church. We hope you like your job and are getting acquainted with all the new things. Thank you to everyone that has been helping get Latrice on the right track and learning everything that she needs to know.

Keep the prayers coming for all with the new administration in the White House and all the changes coming down the pike.

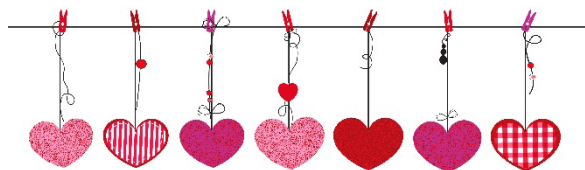
Mission spotlight of the month: Friends of Barnabas. Those of you that are going on the mission trip in September need to have signed up by the end of January, so I hope that you did that. Amy is taking donations for the Christmas in July yard sale that we plan on having. We hope to make this a big event, so we need your help to pull it off. Stay tuned for a date and where else we may need your help. If you would like to learn more about this group and what all they do, please visit their website at: <https://www.fobf.org> . If you make an extra donation, please mark it Friends of Barnabas or mission trip.

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

Lori Mooney, 540-820-7394, Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com & Sarah Simmons, 540-292-0956, sarahsimmons4@aol.com

Thank you.....

I have had a chance to meet a lot of you while working as Sexton at Bethany. When I heard some of you volunteered to clean during my absence and gave money to help with my expenses, I was overwhelmed. Your acts of kindness involve a lot more people than the few I know. I am so grateful. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your prayers, your volunteering to clean, and the money you gave. For me, the difficulty is trying to find the words to express how humbled and truly grateful I am to Bethany. Recovery has been a slow process and I still have a way to go. But strengthened by your prayers, acts of kindness and generosity, I am getting better, have a little less to worry about, and look forward to returning to work. I will never forget what Bethany has done for me, and my family. May God richly bless each of you! - Danny Perry



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY