

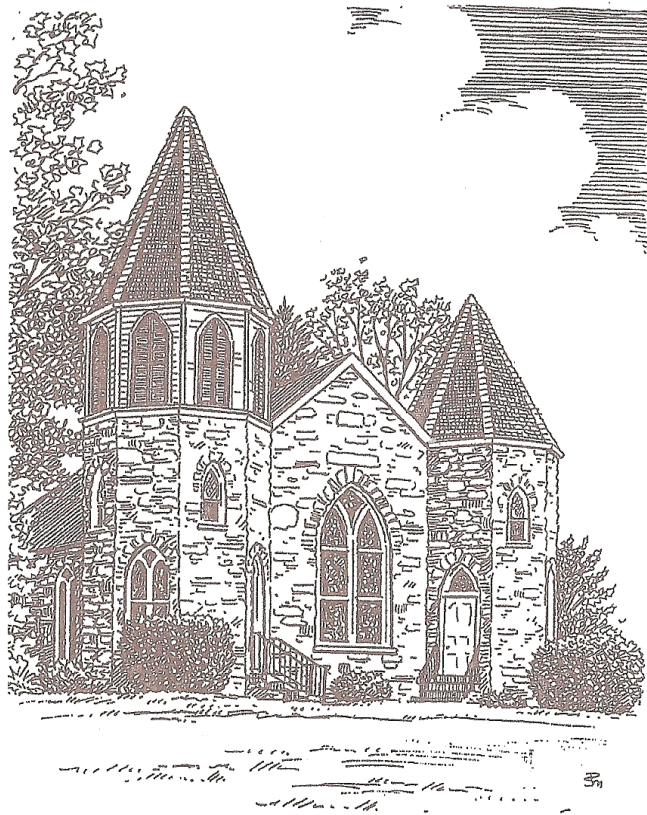
THINGS YOU WANTED TO  
KNOW

ABOUT BETHEL UMC

But didn't know who to ask or where  
to look!



Bethel United Methodist Church  
6903 Blantyre Road Warrenton, Virginia 20187



*Living our faith, sharing God's love*

---

## **Introduction - Why did we create this booklet?**

This booklet was created by the Bethel UMC Church Council to serve two purposes. First, it is meant to be an introductory document for new members of Bethel Church. Second, it is meant to be a “Yellow Pages” for all persons to know about the structure, activities, and ministries of our Church.

Whether you are a new or long-term member of Bethel Church it is important to know about our activities and ministries. By knowing the full range of activities offered, you can begin to see where you might engage and use your gifts and talents.

The activities and ministries described in this booklet represent our work to be the Body of Christ. We offer a wide range of activities and we do it to assure that everyone has a place that their gifts, talents, and interests can be engaged.

As you read this document, if you have other questions, please let us know so that we might include that information as well.

Come and join us as we live our faith and share God’s love together and with all those we encounter. We are glad you are here!

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Our Mission and Ten Year Vision</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Committee Responsibilities</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
Church Council	
Board of Trustees	
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee	
Finance Committee	
Endowment Committee	
Stewardship Committee	
Fellowship Committee	
Nurture Committee	
Evangelism Committee	
Worship Committee	
Missions Committee	
Outreach Committee	
Nominations Committee	
<b>Special Organizations</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
United Methodist Women	
United Methodist Men	
Youth Group	
Boy Scout Troop	
<b>Frequently asked Questions</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>Opportunities for Spiritual Growth</b>	<b>Page 20</b>
Bible Studies	
The Good Sense Budget Course	
Small Groups for Men and Women	
Vacation Bible School	
Sunday School	
EDGE Club	
The Walk to Emmaus	
Annual Mission Trip	
<b>Where can I find...?</b>	<b>Page 24</b>
<b>Glossary of Unique Words</b>	<b>Page 26</b>

## Our Mission Statement

*“Living our faith, sharing God’s Love”* is our mission statement. We believe that Jesus’ commandments are embodied in our mission. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself; so we are to share God’s love. Jesus also tells us to go into the world proclaiming the good news and baptizing to make disciples in all nations; and that is the essence of living our faith.

## Our Ten Year Vision

We are a congregation with a rich history and tradition. We value the work of the persons who preceded us and laid the foundation of our congregation. That foundation is characterized by exceptional Christian hospitality and an atmosphere of welcome and incorporation that we are determined to retain as the core of who we are. To keep ourselves on track, we have a 10-year vision to focus our activities, initiatives, and growth.

We created our first 10-year vision in 2001 and we achieved nearly all our goals we set in five years. The result was major growth both numerically and spiritually, increased outreach and nurture ministries, and new and refurbished facilities. Specifically, we grew from 150 to 220 members and our average weekly attendance grew from 80 to 125. We had over 80 engaged in Bible study. Virtually all our new outreach and nurture ministries were begun in those years. And we refurbished our sanctuary and built our new social hall.

In 2006 as we re-envisioned our future out to 2016, we considered our history, our growth, and what we believed God was calling us to be and do. As we continue to grow, the central characteristics that we are unwilling to sacrifice and are intentionally trying to preserve are our small church atmosphere and the atmosphere of Christian hospitality and welcome. Also central to our future vision was the idea that we wanted to move from just being an enthusiastic welcoming congregation to becoming an inviting, yet still warm and welcoming congregation.

Our vision for 2016 included membership and attendance, facilities, ministries, and other programs. Based on our recent growth trends, we envisioned 160 new members (total of 400), 300 in weekly worship, and increased staff (senior and associate pastor, a youth coordinator/leader, an administrative assistant). We envisioned the need for more space including a youth house, land for expansion and more parking, additional classroom space, a larger nursery and toddler space, using the parsonage to provide needed space, and having a church bus. We envisioned three worship services, continuing our strong study and prayer ministries, expanded mission focus, expanded music ministry, expanded youth ministry, expanded children’s ministry, after school programs for children and youth, programs for seniors, and perhaps a Parents Day Out Program.

We believe that our vision is realistic and achievable if we continue to focus on making disciples of Jesus and listening for God’s still small voice to lead us.

## Committee Responsibilities

### Church Council

Our Church Council is the group who manages the business, ministries, and fellowship activities of Bethel Church. The council is made up of the church officers and the committee chairpersons. The list of leaders who are council members is available in the social hall on the information table.

The council's primary purpose is to insure that objectives and activities are in place that help us accomplish our goals and pursue our mission statement - *Living our faith, sharing God's love*. To that end we employ a strategy that helps us make disciples for Jesus the Christ. We call that strategy **I WIN** (Invite, Welcome, Incorporate and Nurture). In order to help persons move ahead in their relationship with God we invite persons outside the congregation, our visitors and friends, and our own members to be a part of the Body of Christ known as Bethel United Methodist Church. Those who accept the invitation are welcomed with Christian hospitality, incorporated into the life and ministries of our congregation, and nurtured along in their faith journey.

Each committee in the church and each person, as they participate and give of their gifts and talents, play a vital part in helping us accomplish the mission given to us by Jesus in Acts 1:8 to be witnesses and make disciples in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all parts of the world. As we focus on Jerusalem, we focus on activities within the congregation. As we focus on Judea, we focus on our local community. As we focus on Samaria, we focus on Virginia beyond our local community. As we focus on more global mission, we focus on the wider parts of the world to which Jesus called us to minister and make disciples.

The council meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings last about an hour. Council meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend and participate. However, only the officers elected by the charge conference are allowed to vote on motions made during the meetings.

The minutes of the council meetings and the financial reports are open for anyone to review. They are posted on our bulletin board in the narthex. If you have suggestions or would like to participate in the business of the council, please let the council chairperson, currently Cathy Bergman or one of the council members know. The current listing of Council members is available on the information table in the social hall.

### Board of Trustees

The Trustees are responsible to the Church Council to oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property. They receive and administer all property gifts made to the congregation and make certain that all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly. They are responsible, in conjunction with the pastor, to establish guidelines for use of the church buildings and grounds. They maintain

adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies. They submit annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and improvement to the Church Council for approval. They are accountable to the Church Council, congregation, and conference.

While the Trustees are responsible for the church facilities, each member of the congregation must also exercise responsible behavior and treatment of our facilities. Hence before leaving the building, we each have the responsibility to clean up after our use and to turn off all lights and lock the building. If you note problems with any of our facilities that are in need of repair, please report the issue to a member of the Trustees. All members of the congregation may have a key to the church facilities if they request it.

If anyone has any concerns about the facility, or would like a tour of the facility, please contact a member of the Trustees. The current listing of Trustees is available on the information table in the social hall.

### **Pastor-Parish Relations (PPR) Committee**

The PPR Committee is the bridge between the congregation and the staff of the church. The committee helps the pastor set priorities for leadership and service in the church. The committee is responsible to the Church Council to recommend additional staff when the needs of the church dictate change. The committee is responsible to hire, evaluate, and when required, terminate the employment of staff members.

The committee also is responsible for the annual recommendation to the District Superintendent concerning the retention of the current pastor. The committee establishes work responsibilities and work schedules for all paid staff hired by the church.

The PPR Committee also establishes personnel policies for staff and for volunteers. This includes job descriptions for each hired employee and policies for volunteers. The Child Protection Policy is the responsibility of the PPR Committee (it is available on the website, in the nursery, or in the church office).

The PPR Committee is the only committee whose deliberations are confidential and whose meetings are closed to others in the congregation for general participation.

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the pastor, a staff member, or any of our personnel policies, please contact any member of the PPR. The list of committee members is on the information table in the social hall.

### **Finance Committee**

The finance committee is responsible to the Church Council to raise and disperse funds, and to manage the church's finances. While prudent financial practices are employed in the management of our finances, faith plays a major part in

the management of our financial matters at Bethel Church. This committee meets quarterly and more frequently as the budget is being compiled in the summer.

Bethel has been blessed financially over the years as members and friends have generously given, usually by pledging support and honoring their financial commitments. While our budget has grown considerably in the last 10 years to accommodate our new ministries, activities, and building, so has our income. Every year for the last dozen, we have taken in more money than we said we needed and spent less than we said we were going to. At the same time, we have taken on new, unfunded ministries and outreach opportunities each year. We have learned the biblical truth that in giving you receive a hundredfold.

As examples of our financial success, we have always paid 100% of our apportionments. We paid off the 30-year note on our parsonage in less than 10 years. We had \$700,000 cash to apply against the cost of our \$1,700,000 building program. And we anticipate paying off the 10-year portion of our building note (\$400,000) early.

Managing the finances is done, largely, through an annual budget process and individual pledges, with input from all church work-areas. The goals and vision that the congregation put in place each year are also an integral part of the budget process. The budget is compiled by the finance committee, but approved by the Church Council.

Finances are dispersed throughout the year within the framework of the budget. Oversight of the budget is done on a monthly basis, with a report presented at each council meeting.

To be accountable, the Finance Committee maintains a bonded “counting” committee whose responsibility is to count the offerings each week following the services and deposit them in a timely manner. The Finance Committee also employs an outside accountant to conduct an annual audit of all of the church’s accounts.

If you would like to know more about the church finances, the monthly report is on the bulletin board in the social hall, or you could contact one of the Finance Committee members whose names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

### **Endowment Committee**

The Endowment Committee is responsible to the Church Council for receiving donations and directing the investment activities of the Endowment Fund in accordance with the investment policy statement, established resolution guidelines, and the annual objectives.

The Bethel United Methodist Church Endowment Fund was established in November 2006. All principal amounts given to the Endowment Fund are retained and only the income generated from net earnings from the original gifts may be used. Therefore, the money given to this fund will be available for generations to come. Gifts may be given to the General Endowment Fund or specified to one of our designated areas of Capital Projects, Special Ministries, Missions, and/or Scholarships

(Seminary). These funds are totally separate from the Building Fund and the annual church operating budget.

The Endowment Fund “Tree of Life”, which is mounted in our Social Hall, was anonymously donated in July 2007. This provides a permanent and beautiful way to remember and/or honor the lives of loved ones as well as to commemorate special occasions and events in our lives through monetary gifts. These gifts are recognized on the Tree by a leaf (\$1,000 gift), an acorn (\$5,000 gift), a foundation stone (\$10,000 gift), or a mini-tree (\$25,000 gift). Donations may be made at any time in any amount by lump sum, monthly contributions in a specified amount, or end-of-life giving via a will, trust, etc. Friends/family may choose to work toward an engraved leaf for a loved one by making donations periodically (such as on anniversaries, birthday, etc.) until they have the entire amount. New leaves being added to the Tree of Life are dedicated on 5th Sundays throughout the year unless otherwise requested. If a family wishes to have donations given to the Endowment Fund in lieu of flowers upon the death of a loved one, checks should be made to Bethel UMC with a notation for Endowment Fund. When \$1,000 is received, an engraved leaf will be added to the Tree.

Brochures explaining the fund and its administration are available in the social hall or from committee members whose names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

### **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee is responsible to the finance committee to remind the congregation of the stewardship responsibilities of discipleship. To that end the Stewardship Committee conducts the annual stewardship drive that receives pledges of money and service to the church. The committee provides each member the opportunity to consider their gifts and to work in some area of the church and to grow toward the goal of tithing.

This committee meets at the call of the chairperson and committee meetings are announced in advance. If you have questions about the Memorial Fund, please contact one of the members of the committee. Their names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

### **Fellowship Committee**

Each Sunday between the services the fellowship committee sponsors the Connection Café. Persons come early for the first service, linger after the first service and come early for Sunday school and the second service to connect or “reconnect” with one another and to enjoy coffee, a pastry or snack. On the pass-through counter from the kitchen into the social hall, you will find a variety of sweet snacks, fruit or other goodies and coffee, tea and juice to enjoy while you talk. The

food for the Café is provided by church members on a rotating basis. The Connection Cafe has become a tradition and helps us keep connected.

The Fellowship Committee also is responsible for organizing special fellowship times following funerals or other activities of the church. We are Methodists after all and our fellowship times are almost always accompanied with food! Come and join in the fun.

This committee does not have regular meetings. Instead, they organize to provide food for fellowship, as required. If you are interested in the activities of this committee or if you would like to volunteer to provide food, please contact one of its members whose names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

### **Nurture Committee**

The Nurture Committee is responsible to the Church Council to organize activities that provide a safe and fun atmosphere for parishioners and friends to get to know one another and enjoy Christian fellowship. The Committee strives to have activities that are multi-generational and fun for all ages. They sponsor activities approximately once a month that have a relaxed "come as you are" feeling, and one of the best things about these events is that everything is provided for you!

Family game nights are a big hit--games and snacks (and sometimes even a meal!); a traditional Halloween party, complete with dinner, games, costume contest, and of course, trick or treating; caroling in the Bethel neighborhood at Christmas; an Easter Egg Hunt for little ones; and providing many of the activities at the Bethel Pumpkin Festival in mid October are but a few of the events!

The Nurture Committee also sponsors our Prayer Pal, Table Fellowship and Advent Devotional ministries (see the alphabetic glossary for details) and our "cubbies" (the mailboxes located just outside the Narthex on the east wall of the Social Hall that are available to leave messages or cards for one another).

The Nurture Committee does not have regular meetings, just activities. If you would like more information or would like to participate in the committee, please contact one of the members. Their names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

### **Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism Committee is responsible to the Church Council to organize and provide activities that witness to the impact of Christ in our lives. Our witnessing is done within the congregation to call our fellowship to a closer relationship with God and with those in our community who may not know God, but need to. The Committee meets at the call of the chairperson to develop goals, organize activities to achieve the goals, and to evaluate the progress of the evangelism efforts.

The Evangelism Committee has the lead in helping the congregation move to becoming a more inviting church while we maintain our welcoming spirit. They

administer the publicity services of the congregation. They place ads in the newspapers, cable and radio; create and/or post flyers; and update the website to publicize church events.

The Evangelism Committee also provides Bethel pens, refrigerator magnets, and postcards to help visitors recall their visit to Bethel. In addition, they provide The Upper Room devotionals for the congregation as a means to help the members of the congregation further their relationships with Christ.

Evangelism is about witnessing to the power of God in our lives. The Evangelism Committee provides opportunities for people to give their testimony. One person's faith story is a powerful tool that can touch others and perhaps bring them closer to Christ. If you want more information about our Evangelism programs, please contact one of the committee members. Their names are on the information table in the social hall.

### **Worship Committee**

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ”. Worship unites us in that task. The purpose of the Worship Committee is to work with the Pastor and the music leaders to organize and design special opportunities for worship that will help the congregation experience their relationship with God, grow in the knowledge of God, and help them live more faithfully as a Christian community.

We presently have two worship services that provide choices for style of worship. The first service begins promptly at 8:30 A.M. and lasts less than one hour. Communion is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. There is no choir or Children's Message at this service. From 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. there is Sunday school and Adult Bible Study. The second service follows Sunday school and begins promptly at 10:30 A.M. and lasts roughly an hour and twenty minutes. Communion is celebrated at every service, the choir sings and there is a Children's Message called “Moments for Young Disciples”. Both services have nursery available. We are hoping to start a quarterly Contemporary Service this year.

The Worship Committee work areas are: acolytes, ushers, lectors, serving Communion during the service, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Witness, volunteers to do the Young Disciples message, banner making, providing special music, home communion, altar guild, and the tech team.

The Worship Committee meets quarterly and prior to each season of the liturgical year to organize worship activities that will enhance the message of that particular season. If you would like to be a part of any of the work areas of the worship committee, please let a member of the committee know. The members are listed on the information table in the social hall.

## **Missions Committee**

The Missions Committee is a part of the Outreach Committee and is responsible to the Church Council to organize, coordinate, and complete all mission activities and projects in which the congregation engages beyond our local community. As this committee offers mission activities, they offer the opportunity to reach out to others who are less fortunate than we are and who may not know the love of God as we do.

The work of the committee is central to our success in our mission to make disciples for Jesus the Christ. Mission projects give the members of the congregation opportunities to use their gifts to help others - to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. By being the hands and feet of Jesus, we allow others to see Jesus alive and engaged in their lives.

The mission activities of our congregation include the opportunity to go on an annual mission trip to Pocahontas, Virginia during the summer; opportunities to participate in Conference mission projects; Workcamp for youth; providing computers for organizations in need; supporting a covenant missionary; and providing learning opportunities regarding the mission work of our church and our denomination.

If you would like more information concerning our mission activities contact one of the members of the committee. The members are listed on the information table in the social hall.

## **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee is responsible to the Church Council to organize, coordinate, and complete the outreach projects in which the congregation engages in our local community. The Outreach Committee gives persons opportunities to use their God-given gifts and talents to help others. Our outreach activities demonstrate our compassion for others and desire to help others shines through. For those we serve, they can begin to see what life in the Kingdom of God is meant to be. The ones we serve often ask, "Why?" and the answer is simple. We serve because we are Christians who are committed to helping the Kingdom of God be realized on earth as we act as disciples and try to lead others to become disciples.

The activities of the committee are varied and provide members a place to use their gifts and talents in an area that might interest them. We help the homeless through support of the Warrenton Homeless Shelter; Habitat for Humanity; and the Fauquier County Food Distribution Center. We help the needy through our angel tree and adopted families each Christmas; our food baskets at Thanksgiving; our support for student supplies at the beginning of the school year; our support of national programs like Crop Walk and Relay for Life; and other activities like our Monthly Senior Citizen Fellowship, Change to Change a Life, and random acts of kindness.

If you would like more information concerning our outreach activities, contact one of the members of the committee. The members are listed on the information table in the social hall.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee is responsible to the Church Council to search the gifts and talents of persons in the congregation to find persons whose gifts match the requirements of our leadership positions each year and to nominate those persons to lead the congregation in the coming year.

The committee meets several months before the annual charge conference to have its deliberations and to make nominations. Once those nominations are completed, the persons are contacted and asked to serve the church in the capacity for which they are selected. Once all the positions are filled, the leaders are voted into their responsibilities by the charge conference and their term of service starts with the beginning of the calendar year (January).

If you are interested in volunteering for a position for the coming year, please contact one of the committee members. Their names are listed on the information table in the social hall.

## Special Organizations

### *Bethel United Methodist Women*

The Bethel United Methodist Women's organization is very active and engaged in support of the needs of our congregation, our community, and the world. The UMW meets the first Saturday of each month in our social hall. Meetings begin with fellowship and refreshments at 10:00 a.m. followed at 10:30 by a program and the business meeting.

The primary purpose of the UMW organization is to reach out to others with the love of Christ. Thus the primary focus is to be in mission outside of the local church. To that end, the UMW sponsors and supports a number of ministries - Red Bird Mission, Camp Overlook, kits for Conference, and numerous District programs and missions.

The UMW also supports the local church through a ten-year pledge of \$100,000 to our building fund, taking primary responsibility for the church kitchen, and hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday fellowship.

There are numerous fund-raising activities that occur each year and have the benefit of fellowship and camaraderie as well. Those activities include monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) breakfasts open to the community; an annual yard sale in June; the annual Pumpkin Patch in October; and the annual Bazaar, Bake Sale and Cookie Walk in November.

If you are interested, membership is open to all women of the church. The pastor is also a member of the UMW, and when the pastor is a man, then he is the only male member of this women's organization.

### *Bethel United Methodist Men*

The Bethel United Methodist Men group is organized to provide Christian fellowship and focus for the activities of the men of the congregation. Bethel's UMM was originally organized as a group of men who were the "hands of Bethel Church" - the ones who took it on themselves to fix those things that needed fixing but to also encourage one another in growing in faith to become disciples of Jesus the Christ. Bethel's UMM has grown to be one of the most active UMM units in our district.

The heart of Bethel's UMM is the *Helping Hands* ministry. This group began by doing work required by our church facilities and by helping people in the congregation with work they were unable to do on their own. That work has branched out to a quarterly project in support of the community while still caring for the repair needs of our facilities.

In addition, the UMM supports many local, district, and national outreach programs and ministries. The UMM supports Hunters for the Hungry, Amor Y Paz (District Hispanic Ministry), Heart Havens (conference homes for special needs persons), and Habitat for Humanity.

To help young men grow in their relationship with God and to understand their gifts for service to others, the UMM is the chartering organization for and sponsors Troop 161 of the National Capital Area Boy Scouts. In addition, the UMM have offered to sponsor a local Cub Scout Pack as well.

To foster spiritual growth, the UMM has periodic men's Bible studies and sponsors the Upper Room National Prayer Hot Line two or three times a year. While the Bible studies are only open to men, the prayer line volunteers include both men and women.

Support to our congregation includes fundraising and service activities. With a ten-year \$100,000 pledge to our Building Fund, the UMM are an integral part of our realizing our new and refurbished facilities. The UMM also man our parking ministry of hospitality which is the first line of welcome for people visiting Bethel Church.

To accomplish their work the UMM have numerous fund-raising activities. The biggest fundraiser is the annual Golf Tournament held in October. Other activities include barbecue chicken and spaghetti dinners that are open to the community and congregation, making pens from old wood from the church, and selling programs for Gold Cup events.

The UMM organization is open to all men who are interested in Christian fellowship and service.

### **Youth Group**

The B.U.M.C Youth Group is composed of 7th grade to 12th grade youth that meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner is provided by the parents of the youth on a rotation basis at the beginning of the meetings.

The group engages in study, outreach, fellowship, and fun events. They engage through the outreach ministries of the church to help families and ministries in our community. The Youth Group is active in many events such as the Crop Walk, Park clean ups, Fall Festival, hiding Easter Eggs for the children at Easter, caroling at Christmas, participating in VBS in the summer, and helping in child care when needed for adult functions at the church.

Annually, the youth lead a worship service where they usher, lector, and bring the message! To help each other find out what GOD has to say and how to include God in every day life.

The heart of a youth group is fun activities and our youth group is no exception. Each year they engage in activities like bowling, Wii tournaments, karaoke, and trips to Kings Dominion.

They also engage in fundraisers to support their activities. These fund raising activities include car washes, bake sales, selling soup kits (Souper Bowl), and auctioning services like baby-sitting and other work services around the home.

All youth are welcome. You do not have to be a member of the church. All that is required is a willing and open heart. Youth leaders names are available in the social hall on the Bethel Church Leaders listing.

## **Boy Scout Troop**

The Bethel UMM is proud to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 161. Troop 161 is one of the oldest troops in Fauquier County. The troop has a scoutmaster, six assistant scoutmasters, and strong parental support.

The troop meets most Monday nights in the Church social hall from 7 pm to about 8:30. They have a wide range of outdoor activities to help our boys grow into men. For more information contact the Scoutmaster, Harvey J. Leister. His contact information is as follows: 365 Winchester Street, Warrenton, VA 20186  
Telephone: (home) 540-341-0411, E-mail: [harvey.j.leister@mco.com](mailto:harvey.j.leister@mco.com)

## Questions Frequently Asked by Newcomers

**What do I have to do to join in one of the activities of the church?** Just come and join in! If you would like to talk with the persons organizing the function first to see how you might fit in, by all means do that too. You will be welcomed!

**Can my child come to worship with me?** By all means yes! Children are welcome in worship and are not required to go to the nursery or children's church. However, we do hope that parents will take advantage of the nursery and children's church depending on the needs of their children. The nursery is provided so that parents can worship without distraction and know that their children are being cared for. Children's Church is provided to help children with a longer attention span learn the rhythms of worship so that they might benefit from worship.

**Why do we have the policy that children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult when they leave the sanctuary or come to events at church?** It is a part of our child protection policy and this policy assures the safety of our children and youth. When the children leave worship by themselves they could be abducted by a stranger before we would ever know they are gone. That likelihood one of our children would be abducted is not great but our policy insures that the likelihood is even less. The problem is we do not lock our doors during worship and churches are known to be trusting places, so predators sometimes target churches.

**What is the difference between the nursery and Children's Church?** The nursery is for infants to pre-K children who need constant supervision and care. Children's church is designed to help children understand church and is for older children with the attention span to begin to understand and to participate without constant supervision.

**Who can have a key to the facilities?** Any member may have a key to our church facilities. Just ask one of the trustees.

**Where do I find a key to the playground?** The key to the playground is hanging on the upper right side of the doorframe as you go out the door from the restrooms toward the playground. If you use the key to open the lock, please replace it right after you open the lock so that we do not lose the key. Also please make sure that you lock the playground when you are finished using it.

**Who can use the playground?** Anyone under the supervision of a member of the church may use the playground. An adult member must be present and is responsible for the playground when it is in use.

**Why is the playground locked?** Our insurance requires that we limit access to the playground because we are liable for its use. It is what it termed “an attractive nuisance” in insurance terms. Thus, we have a fence to discourage people from entering without permission and a lock to demonstrate that public access is not allowed.

**What is required of me as member of the church?** When you join the congregation, you vow that you will support the church by your prayers, presence, gifts and service and that is what is expected. But what is important is the mission of church - to make disciples of Jesus the Christ. As a member of the church, we anticipate that you will live and grow in your faith as you participate in and support the ministries and activities of our congregation.

**Why are some classes and activities held in the parsonage?** When we built our new building, we knew that we would not have sufficient room to expand our ministries so we planned on using the parsonage. Since we knew we had no more usable land to build new facilities, part of our vision for the future was to use the parsonage for ministry.

**How can I donate furniture or property to the church?** If you have furniture and equipment that you would like to donate, contact the Trustees to make sure the donations are something that the church needs. Please do not drop things off in hopes that they will be used.

**Am I expected to give to the building fund and endowment fund?** No, it is not required, but we hope that you would care enough to give to help defray the cost of the building early and to endow the future. People give as they are able.

**Are non-members welcome in our activities and studies?** Absolutely yes! Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus. We do that by helping members to move ahead in their faith journey and by inviting others to come and see and join in our worship and activities. We often have non-members as part of our studies and activities!

**May I use the social hall for a family gathering?** Yes, if it is not already scheduled, members may use the facilities. However, you must first get approval of the trustees. There is a use policy in place by which you must agree to abide.

**Why do we have communion every Sunday at the second service?** In the early church, communion was celebrated every time the congregation met. Our liturgy says that we should partake often. The United Methodist Church has asked the local church to reclaim the practice of communion each Sunday. In order to provide a choice for those who prefer not to commune each week, the first service only celebrates communion on the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to better understand the history of communion and the celebration itself, ask Pastor Marty.

**Why don't we have choir or children's message/church at the early service?** In order to complete the service in less than an hour, we decided to save the time by omitting the anthem and children's message.

**Are the Upper Room devotionals free?** Yes, they are provided for our members free of charge and are available on the rack on the wall of the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. Feel free to take one.

**Why don't we pay to have someone mow the lawn and tend the landscape?** - It would be easier to do that, but we choose to instill ownership in our church by doing the work ourselves. Besides, nobody cares for something that belongs to someone else the way people who own it do. Come join in and help out.

**How do I obtain a DVD copy of our weekly Sunday worship service?** Each week we record the 10:30 worship service and we record special events and worship services as well. DVD's of the services are available without charge. Simply check in the sign-up book in the Narthex of the church for the DVD section, provide your name and contact number, the date of the service you wish to have a copy of, and the number of copies you would like. Then check back in your mail cubbie at the church for your DVD. Copies are usually provided within one week of any request.

**What is the cardboard box on the Outreach table for?** It is the collection point for recycled printer ink cartridges and for old cell phones. We have earned thousands of dollars through the recycled ink cartridges. Our inkjet printer cartridge recycling began in December 2001. With the help of Planet Green and our members we have recycled thousands of printer cartridges and have raised thousands of dollars for Bethel. By working together we are indeed making a difference in our environment and community.

**What is the basket on the Outreach table for?** It is the collection point for used postage stamps and for Campbell's soup labels. These are both UMW collections that benefit projects of the Winchester District UMW.

**Does Bethel UMC recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles?** Yes, the two small "trash cans" on the pavilion are for recycling. This is sponsored by the Disciple Bible Study classes.

**Why do we collect aluminum tabs in the water bottle on the Outreach table?** We collect aluminum tabs for the following reasons: the tabs are pure aluminum and as such are valuable and earn money for charitable organizations. For example, the Ronald McDonald House in Houston, TX, collects the tabs and sells them for about \$8,000 per year. We send tabs each year to the Ronald McDonald House. To save the cost of postage, we occasionally hand deliver tabs for a donation to the National Kidney Foundation. This is sponsored by the Missions Committee.

**Why isn't the US Flag displayed in the sanctuary?** It is not that we do not value the freedoms of our country that are expressed by the display of the flag. To the contrary we fully understand that the freedoms of our country allow us to pick the place and style of worship that we will enjoy. But as we enter the sanctuary, we leave the world behind including thoughts of our country and we focus on God and what God means to us. Therefore, to keep the focus on God we do not have symbols other than those relating to God and his love for us in our sanctuary. And we proudly display the flag in our social hall where our faith is lived out among the congregation and with many other groups who use our facilities.

**What is a Taize worship service and why do we have one?** A Taize worship service is a contemplative type service that is characterized by readings, singing, and prayer. The tone of the service is quiet and reverent and the lighting is typically dimmer. The service offers an alternative form of worship that can help us find a meditative time of quiet in which to focus on and experience God in our midst. We try to have a Taize service every quarter. This service usually lasts about 45 minutes.

**What is a praise worship service and why do we have them?** A praise service, sometimes called a contemporary service, is another alternative form of worship. The dress is casual, the music is provided by a band, there is lots of singing of upbeat Christian songs, people feel more free to express emotion by clapping and standing and raising hands in praise to God. The pastor or speaker brings a message that is not necessarily aligned with the lectionary readings which are used in the Sunday morning worship services. There is a communion component of this worship service as well. These services are currently done on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall, but we hope they will eventually become weekly on Saturday night.

## Other Opportunities for Spiritual Growth and Development

### **Bible Studies**

Bible Study is a significant part of the life of Bethel Church - many have said that it has changed the face of Bethel. Every year, we offer at least one long-term (30-34 week) study and numerous shorter studies throughout the year. The purpose of these studies is to help each participant to draw closer to God and to others in the congregation and help one another in the journey of discipleship. To date, over half of our congregation has engaged in one study or another outside of Sunday morning since 2000.

Some adults believe that they have “graduated” from study; that they have “been there and done it” and now study is only for the children and youth. That kind of thinking is folly. Learning about God is something that we need to do all the days of our lives. Just as we must work at all our earthly friendships and relationships constantly, so must we work on our relationship with God. We do that by three means - worship, prayer and study. And, contrary to popular opinion, we need all three.

Some adults don’t think they have time for study because life makes them too busy. Virtually every one of us who has taken the plunge into study has learned that we do have the time if we will just take it instead of wasting it. Over and over, the testimony of those who have committed to study is that they love it, they have time for it and they can’t wait for the next study.

Pastor Marty says that many folks ask him how he knows so many in the congregation and his response is Bible study. In Bible study we not only encounter God but we encounter one another with God in our midst and we begin to know each other in a very special way. Bible study - come and join us, it is never too late!

### **The Good Sense Budget Course**

This course is usually offered twice a year - once in the fall and once in the spring. The focus of the class is on what the Bible says about money and the use of money and possessions. The class focuses on the subject Jesus talked about most, money and stuff, and how it impacts us. It is a wonderful course that has helped many to grow in their understanding of money and church. If you struggle with managing your money or what the church says about money, this class is for you. Ben and Kelly Cauthorn facilitate this class.

## **Small Groups for Men and Women**

John Wesley (the founder of Methodism) believed that small group meeting and study was critical in the spiritual growth and formation of Christians. Small group ministries have found renewed vigor in recent years as many churches are seeking the connection and accountability that these small groups bring.

At Bethel we have five men's small groups that meet weekly at various times throughout the week to study and encourage one another in spiritual growth. These groups have different formats, but all are designed to help men reverse the tide of society's pull and to find deeper relationship with God and renewed spiritual growth to reclaim the role of family spiritual leader. The current group leaders are: Ben Cauthorn, Tom Davis, Mike Jamison, Earl Kemper, and Jeff Krauss.

There is one women's small accountability group and the Friday morning Women's Bible study. The Friday morning study is a large group of around 20 at any given time, but this group functions as a small, accountability group because they do most of their in depth discussions in small groups.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible has become a staple in our ministry to our children and community children each summer. VBS usually occurs in the fourth week of July in the evenings from 6:00 - 8:00. Participation has grown in this ministry each year and we hope that will continue as other invite friends to join in the fun.

The evenings begin with a gathering of all the youth and children where the day's theme is discussed and the week's mission project is highlighted. Then the larger group breaks into different age group categories to rotate through activities of song, craft, stories, and snack. Each evening concludes as the whole group assembles for a short closing program. Come join us and invite a friend.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday school is a wonderful opportunity for adults and children to continue their faith journey and relationship with God. By coming to Sunday school we demonstrate to our children what is important. By bringing our children to Sunday School we encourage their Christian learning and provide them with the blessing of a Christian foundation that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Sunday School is alive and well at Bethel Church with classes available for all ages. There are three adult classes and thanks to a dedicated group of volunteer teachers, children from the ages of 3 to 18 have the opportunity to learn about God and Christ Jesus and learn how to apply the lessons to their everyday lives. There are two adult classes, a youth class, an older elementary class, a younger elementary class, and a toddler class. All classes start at 9:35 and end approximately 10:15.

Adult Classes. One is led by Pastor Marty and studies the Lectionary Scriptures for the following week. One led by Dolores Goff and that class does book studies. Both classes meet in the parsonage and are always open. And the third is led by Kelly and Ben Cauthorn and discusses young adult and family issues.

Middle School Class. Led by Tom Davis and Terese Crowther. They are using the fun materials that engage the youth in applying and encountering issues of faith. This class meets in the upper floor of the parsonage.

Senior High Class. Catherine Bowers and Murray Edwards lead this class. They are using the fun materials that engage the youth in applying and encountering issues of faith. The topics follow the lectionary and engage the youth in relevant issues. This group meets in the lower level of the parsonage in the Youth Room.

Upper Elementary (grades 3 through 5). Donna Broadbent and Kirsten King Florence lead our upper elementary class. They are using the “Exploring Your Faith” materials as are the rest of our Sunday School Classes.

Elementary (K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). June Rinker and Rebecca Krauss lead our young elementary class

Preschool Class. Mary Anne Templeton and Cindy Rainger lead our preschool class.

### **EDGE Club**

[Experiencing and Demonstrating God Everywhere]

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12*

EDGE Club is for kids from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The group meets from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. The focus is how we experience and then demonstrate God's love and presence in the world. The group will enjoy Bible stories, games, crafts, music and will participate in service projects for the church. It also runs concurrently with BASIC Training and the Disciple classes so parents can be comfortable that their children are being cared for and nurtured in their faith.

### **The Walk to Emmaus**

The Walk to Emmaus is a weekend for deepening your relationship with Jesus. It is a vehicle for helping people connect what they know in their head about God - what they have learned in study - with the love in their hearts that is placed there by God. The “Walk” is not really a walk, but it takes its name from the disciples in Luke 24 who were walking to Emmaus, encountered Jesus and he unfolded scripture to them, and they had their eyes opened as Jesus shared bread with them.

The Walk is a four-day event. You are picked up on Thursday by your sponsor and taken to dinner before you are taken to the gathering place in Front Royal. The

Walk ends on Sunday evening when your sponsor picks you up and then takes you to dinner before returning you to your home and family.

There are separate Walks for men and women. Twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall there are two weekends. The first weekend of each pair is for the men and the second is for the women. To date over 50 persons in our congregation have attended.

During the Walk you will hear 15 talks by laypersons and clergy. The talks are designed to communicate God's grace and how each of us might move ahead in our faith journey and relationship with God. Interspersed with the talks are special activities, worship, communion, and singing.

If you would like more information or would like to go on a Walk weekend, let Pastor Marty know and he will give you information or check on the wall rack in the narthex where there are brochures and applications.

### **Annual Mission Trip**

Each year in July we take a week-long mission trip to Pocahontas, Virginia. During the trip, we help families with work that they can either not afford or are unable to do for themselves. There is no charge to attend unless you prefer to stay in a motel. The majority of the team stays in town either at the Catholic Parish House or in the Baptist parsonage that are offered to us free of charge. We eat breakfast on our own. Lunch is delivered to our work sites. And we have dinner together in the fellowship hall of the Baptist Church.

We have been going to Pocahontas for five years now and have formed a special relationship with the people there. We could go to other places where the United Methodist Church focuses like helping with the recovery in the Gulf States but we choose to go to a place that others might ignore and to do what we can in that area. Going to Pocahontas also allows us to use the majority of our money for work projects rather than transportation. It also allows us to go for varying lengths of time.

If you are interested in joining in the work, please contact the missions coordinator.

## Where Can I Find...?

**The Church Office** - it is on the fourth floor and is accessed by the elevator or the stairs next to the kitchen

**The Narthex** - it is the little room outside the sanctuary, in the stone tower. It is the area where the ushers greet you as you enter and the pastor greets you as you leave.

**The Nursery** - it is on the first floor accessed by the elevator or the stairs next to the elevator.

**The Youth Room** - it is in the basement room of the parsonage.

**The Elementary Classrooms** - they are on the third (older elementary) and fourth (younger elementary in the Upper Room) floors and are accessed by the elevator or the stairs next to the kitchen.

**The Library** - it is on the third floor and is accessed by the elevator or the stairs next to the kitchen.

**The Restrooms** - Handicapped accessible restrooms are located on the main floor in the left rear hallway off the social hall. Another small restroom is located on the fourth floor next to the Upper Room. There are also two restrooms on the first floor in the toddler/nursery area.

**How many floors are there with the church facilities?** - There are four floors. The main floor (where the sanctuary and social hall are) is really floor number 2. Floor number one has the nursery and the toddler room. Floor number three is above nursery and toddler room and has the library, the music and handbell room and one Elementary classroom. The fourth floor has the Upper Room, a small restroom and the Church Office.

**The Church Calendar** - it is posted on the website ([www.bethelumc.com](http://www.bethelumc.com)). It is on the bulletin board in the social hall.

**The Bulletin Board** - it is in the social hall on the wall past the coat closet on the right as you come in through the double doors. Or, on the way out it is on the left. It has the church calendar and information about our church. The office assistant maintains the board - please do not post information without asking.

**Where are the lists of persons who are scheduled for Sunday worship activities such as usher, lector, children's church, parking attendants, and acolyte?** - they are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The board is behind the door and is not visible when the door is open.

**Where can I find lists of leaders and goals of the church?** - they are posted on the website and available on the table under the bulletin board in the social hall.

**Where can I find more tables if needed for the social hall?** - they are in the storage room in the corner of the social hall behind the baby grand piano.

**Where can I find more chairs if needed for the social hall?** - they are in the storage room in the corner of the social hall behind the baby grand piano. There are also more chairs in the robbing room of the sanctuary and in the balcony of the sanctuary.

**In which rooms can I view the worship other than the sanctuary?** In the kitchen, in the social hall, in the toddler room, and in the nursery room is where the worship service is broadcast.

**Where can I find instructions for being a lector?** They are available on the website and they are provided to lectors via email when they are assigned lector responsibilities. If you do not have computer access, please contact the Worship Committee Chairperson - currently Pat Martin.

**Where can I find instructions for being an usher?** They are available on the website and they are provided to ushers via email when they are assigned usher duties. The instructions are also available for review anytime in the windowsill of the narthex. If you do not have computer access or would like a copy of the instructions, please contact the Head Usher - currently Rick Putnam.

**Where can I find instructions for being a parker?** They are available on the website and they are provided to parkers via email when they are assigned parking responsibilities. A copy of the instructions is also available in the narthex for review at any time. If you do not have computer access or would like a copy of the instructions, please contact the Parking Coordinator - currently Ken Adams.

## GLOSSARY OF UNIQUE BETHEL UMC TERMS

**Advent Devotional** - We publish a Devotional booklet each year that includes faith stories of members and friends of our congregation. There is a story for every day of the Advent and Christmas season. It is an excellent opportunity to get to know one another through shared faith stories.

**Amor Y Paz** - The Hispanic ministry hosted by the Winchester District and supported by the local churches of the district.

**Angel Tree** - a ministry of the Outreach committee held early in the Advent season. We put angels on the Christmas tree with gifts listed on each angel. You take an angel and purchase and wrap a gift for a needy family. Gifts are returned to the church and distributed just before Christmas.

**Annual Conference** - Meeting of all the United Methodist Churches in our conference (Virginia). It usually occurs in the second week of June.

**BASIC Training** - Brothers and Sisters in Christ is a children's ministry designed to help our children understand issues of faith and the importance of church as family.

**Bethel Bugle** - The name of our bimonthly newsletter.

**Builder's Club** - A Winchester District program that helps to raise money to support building projects of local churches. Church members are asked to participate by signing up for the program and agreeing to send in \$20 twice a year - once in the fall and once in the spring. The district office does not hound participants. You receive one letter with an enclosed envelop in which to return your payment.

**"Change to Change a Life"** - The gray bucket sits in the window of the narthex and is the collection point for change to change a life. This ministry was started in 2000 by Brooke Hahne and presently run by the youth group. It is designed for each of us to put our pocket change in the bucket as we leave worship. The change is given to the Warrenton Family Shelter to support the needy there.

**Charge Conference** - A meeting of the council members of Bethel Church that is called by the district superintendent and chaired by the DS or his designated representative. The purpose of a charge conference is to make leadership, financial, or property decisions. Our annual charge conference usually happens at the end of the summer or in early fall. At the annual conference we set our goals, elect our officers, and approve our budget for the coming calendar year. In addition, we review our membership changes, report on the status of the church, and we report on the accomplishment of our goals from the previous years. Special charge conferences are called to approve building programs and take on new and significant debt. At a charge conference all congregation members are welcome and allowed to provide inputs, but only the council members vote.

**Children's Church** - Following the Children's message during worship, young children are invited to go to Children's Church where they are taught the rhythms of worship until they can participate in our worship service. They have a lesson, they sing, they pray, they take an offering. Children participating in Children's Church must have the attention span to participate. Younger children (pre-K) are encouraged to go to the nursery or to stay with their parents.

**Church Conference** - is a charge conference (see above) in which all church members may participate and vote.

**Conference** - An organizational grouping of the United Methodist Church. We are members of the Virginia Conference.

**Connection Café** - Snacks and coffee and juice shared in the social hall before each Sunday service and between services. It provides the opportunity for those who attend different services to mingle and get to know one another. Food for the Connection Café is provided by volunteers.

**Cookie Walk** - a fund raising effort sponsored by the UMW. It is a part of the Annual Bazaar that occurs in November. Members of the church provide hundreds of homemade cookies. On the day of the cookie walk, those who come, buy small boxes that they are allowed to fill. It is one of our most popular fundraisers and people line up hours early to buy the cookies.

**Cubbies** - the small alphabetized mailboxes just outside of the narthex. They are there to provide a central place for distribution of letters and other correspondence among members of the congregation.

**District** - An organizational grouping of the United Methodist Church Conferences. In Virginia, we have 19 districts and we are in the Winchester District.

**District Superintendent (DS)** - The pastor who is set apart from a local church by the conference to oversee the operation of a district. Our DS has his office in Winchester.

**EDGE Club** - EDGE stands for Experiencing and Demonstrating God Everywhere. It is designed for kids from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The group meets from 2:00 to 4:00 on Sunday afternoon. The purpose of EDGE Club is to help our children grow in their faith, their knowledge of the Bible, their relationship with God and their understanding of Christian fellowship.

**Fifth Sunday** - If a month has five Sundays, the last one is 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. On that Sunday we have *only one worship service at 10:30*. Fifth Sunday is celebrated with a potluck lunch following worship. During the worship service, we have a hymn sing and a layperson brings a testimony of their faith journey.

**Heart Havens** - a Conference program that is sponsored by the UMC and adopted by the UMM. The program provides for the residential needs of adult individuals with Cognitive and Intellectual Disabilities and developmental disabilities. The homes are group homes and are spread throughout the state.

**Helping Hands** - ministry of the Bethel UMM which reaches out to help persons with work projects that they could not accomplish on their own. (see UMM article)

**Home Communion** - The first Sunday of each month we consecrate bread and juice to be distributed to those who are unable to attend our worship service and to some in nursing homes and care facilities. This ministry is a part of the worship committee.

**Kairos** - Prison ministry. Several folks in our congregation are involved and periodically go into prisons for weekends where they present a series of talks and activities designed to convey Christ's love to the inmates who attend. This ministry is powerful in the transformation that occurs within many who attend. If you are interested, please contact Jim Templeton.

**Kairos cookies** - each time there is a Kairos weekend, each participant has to take 500 dozen cookies. When a weekend is coming up you will often hear requests in the announcement time for people to provide homemade cookies. And there are exact recipes that must be followed because some substances such as raisins and sugar sprinkles that are not allowed.

**Library** - In the classroom on the third floor are a set of books and videos that are available for check out and reading. All is accomplished on the honor system. We just ask that you sign books out so that we might know where they are. The UMW manages this ministry and keeps books from the UMW reading program in the library.

**Living our faith, sharing God's love** - the mission statement created and approved by the Church Council and a church conference in 2001.

**Pocahontas** - The little town in southwest Virginia where we have our annual summer mission trip. We have been working with the people of Pocahontas since 2001.

**Prayer Pals** - Ministry that pairs children and youth of our congregation with adults for a school year. The adults pray daily for the child. This expands the notion of church family and helps everyone understand the power of prayer.

**Pumpkin Patch** - Fund raising activity of the UMW that sells pumpkins grown by the Navajo Nation Reservation in New Mexico. This is a recurring activity in October that is coupled with the Nurture, Outreach, and Evangelism Committee's Fall Festival.

**Random Acts of Kindness** - an Outreach ministry that occurs around September 11<sup>th</sup> and in the spring. This project is designed to recognize and thank the "first responders" and others in our community for all they do to keep us safe.

**Sparrow's Rest** - A ministry conceived by a member of the congregation, Catherine Bowers. Sparrows Rest is intended to be a farm type environment with horses and other animals where youth who are products of broken homes can live and learn life skills that will allow them to be productive members of society and learn to love as God first loved them. At the present time, Catherine is trying to sell her home in order to purchase a place where the ministry can begin. The organization is seeking incorporation as a non-profit mission in Fauquier County now.

**Table Fellowship (Tables of 8 or 9)** - Quarterly gatherings of groups of 8 or 9 people (some couples and some not) to enjoy dinner together. Each pair brings a part of the meal to be shared. If you do not have a home big enough to host in, you will not be asked to host and you can still participate.

**Tech Team** - Persons who are trained in the use and setup of our audio-visual equipment used both in worship and in the social hall.

**Ten Year Vision** - The concept that the council has created and approved that envisions what Bethel Church will look like in 10 years. This vision gives the council a concept that the council can use to develop goals and programs as they lead Bethel Church into the future.

**Tree of Life** - The brass and copper tree in the social hall that that provides a meaningful and beautiful way to honor and remember loved ones and events in our lives through special gifts to our Endowment Fund and hence to the future of Bethel Church. (see Endowment Committee article)

**Upper Room** - The room on the upper level of the new addition above the restrooms and behind the sanctuary. The place where many studies and meetings occur and it has the church library in it as well.

**Upper Room Prayer Line** - a ministry organized by the United Methodist Church and run by Upper Room ministries in Nashville. This prayer ministry allows persons throughout the country to call and have someone pray with them concerning issues that are troubling them. Local churches can sponsor the prayer line by manning it for specific periods of time. Our UMM group has sponsored the prayer line at Bethel Church.

**Website** - [bethelumc.com](http://bethelumc.com) is the online place for information about Bethel Church

**Workcamp** - a week long summer mission activity for youth in Petersburg, VA. During the week, the youth work in crews with youth from around the state to repair homes and in the evenings there are seminars for adults/workcampers 19 years old and over to learn about mission work related issues.