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January 2023

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# The Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*Living our faith, sharing God's love.*



## Pastoral Column — January 2023

Happy New Year everyone. Many of you saw my Facebook post recently about my mother's journal entry that I posted. Although it was written in Korean, I did my very best to translate it for you so that you can see my mother's heart.



*Yesterday I arrived safely at my son's house after we drove for 10 hours. As I prayed for clear weather God granted us His guidance for comfort and safety. Although I am not the best passenger when it comes to long distance travel, my son enabled our trip down to Virginia not only bearable, but he stopped several times for bathroom breaks and refreshments to energize our bodies. My body is declining every day which is different from a few months ago when I thought I was doing well but I don't seem to have the energy as I use to. Even during these changing times at the age of 85, I have learned to accept God's*

*good and safe plan for my life as I empty my heart for His will to be done.*

*When we arrived, my daughter-in-law prepared a wonderful Korean dinner. I felt even more welcomed as I saw their beautiful and clean house. Talking to my grandchildren I soon realized*

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## Pastoral Column — continued

*that it wasn't a dream, but I was finally with my son's family. I got emotional as I quietly cried with sincere joy in my heart that first night.*

*Early in the morning I opened my eyes and realized it was only 3 AM and all I remember was going to bed early the night we arrived. Not to be a burden to my son and his family, I brought an electric kettle to boil water in my room so that I could have my favorite cup ramen. I often wonder if I might be addicted to ramen but if it brings me comfort, I am happy.*

*Later that morning, my daughter-in-law and my granddaughter left for Atlanta to stay one night before making their drive to Mississippi to help Tarah's sister before her surgery. I can't imagine how much was on Tarah's mind with my arrival and then having to drive down to Mississippi to help her sister. But I knew she would overcome the challenges of life because her faith is strong and like the Korean saying, "blood is thicker than water" which means family is priority.*

*I prayed for God's blessing for Andrew and David as they had a busy Christmas season as Andrew just finished leading a retreat and David coming up to get me. Later that morning, David and Andrew went to their respective churches, and I was grateful for their burning desire to serve our Lord. I believe they are doing their very best and I truly believe they are doing God's Holy work to prepare the church for the New Year.*

*I was given the master bedroom which is unlike my room in Toronto. It is so spacious that it brought much satisfaction for me even though I felt guilty for taking David and Tarah's room. There are so many windows that brings in the warm sunshine and I can enjoy the rain fall so peacefully. I am blessed to have my son and daughter who takes good care of me. All I can pray is "Blessings are overflowing from God, and I thank You for Your kindness today." December 31, 2022 - Sun Hi Ryu*

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My sister Elizabeth is six years younger than me. She is a high school teacher in Toronto and for 22 years, she has taken care of my mother. Her husband John Christianson is such an amazing son-in-law as he makes sure mom's needs are always met. When they found out I was bringing mom down to Virginia, they couldn't believe it at first because mom always worried about the health insurance issue just incase she got sick in the States. This time, mom's younger brother and sister are both going to be in the United States visiting their children, so the incentive was to rendezvous in Virginia next month to spend time together too.

Having mom this time around is extra special for me because in the Korean culture, the oldest son usually takes the full responsibility of caring for their parents when they retire. Although I missed so much of mom's journey after the passing of my father, I hope to make it up to her and help her make more wonderful memories with her grandchildren. I will be bringing her to our Sunday service soon but there are no guarantees as she has trouble walking and sitting for long periods of time. But until then, I hoped to share a little more about my side of the family. — Pastor David Ryu

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Pastor: David Ryu  
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 Pat Martin  
 pat88piano@gmail.com

Interim Director of Hymndingers  
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 Tuesdays & Fridays  
 1:00pm—4:00pm  
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 Thursdays  
 1:30pm—4:30pm

Virginia Conference Bishop:  
 Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson  
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 Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606  
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Northern Virginia District  
 Superintendent:  
 Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert  
 3600 Chain Bridge Rd., Fl 1  
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 703/820-7200

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship in Sanctuary & Online

1st & 3rd Sundays: Communion Sundays

2nd Sunday: Youth Group Meeting—12:00 pm at the Church

4th Sunday: Youth Motel Ministries—12:00 pm

*Join our Sunday morning ministry team. To volunteer:*

- ◆ *to read scripture, contact Jane Brewer at 540-428-0038*
- ◆ *to usher, contact Tom Ferrell at 540-439-9043*
- ◆ *to help before and after communion, contact Cathy Carayas at 540-219-2575*
- ◆ *to assist with tech, contact Sarah Hundley at 540-589-5564*
- ◆ *to assist with the Youth, contact Sandra Colvin at 540- 347-2375 or Karla Yocum at 540-514-6070*

## Upcoming Events

Thursdays, 9:30 am—11:00 am: Women's Bible Study—Social Hall

Thursdays, 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal—Bell Room

Thursdays, 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 pm: Administrative Council Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 7:00 pm: Choir & Hymndingers Meeting

Saturday, January 14, New District Training Day

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm: Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 9:00 am: New District Training Day

Friday, January 20, 7:00 pm: 2023 Leadership Orientation Day I

Saturday, January 21, 9-11:00 am: 2023 Leadership Orientation Day II

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 pm: Trustees Meeting

January Birthdays:

- 01 Rick Putnam
- 06 Dave Childers
- 07 Sue Mitchell
- 10 Addison Sellers  
Anne Durbin  
Courtney Childers
- 12 Ed Stouffer  
Doloris Baker  
Kim Childers
- 13 Thomas Litchford
- 16 Mary Ann Otey  
Kirsten King
- 17 Ruth Lepto
- 18 Bonnie Pool
- 19 Judy Clear
- 20 Bill Mitchell
- 21 Amy Zitzmann
- 22 Stephen Lee  
Grace Langan  
Hannah Langan
- 24 Jill Wilson
- 25 Linda Lee
- 26 Charlene Hahne  
Dave Wilcox
- 27 Raymond Surface  
John Lepto  
Clarence Gill Sr.
- 31 Denali Grogan  
Dick Johns

January Anniversaries:

- 7 Kevin & Tara Lee

## January Worship

- January 1— New Year’s Day Sunday —Communion  
Matthew 2:1-12 —“New Year’s Day”  
Music: *Let There Be Light; There is Something About That Name*  
Special Music: *Star in the Night*—The Choir
- January 8—Baptism of the Lord  
Matthew 3:13-17 —“Baptism and Covenant ”  
Music: *When Jesus Came to Jordan; Spirit Song*
- January 15—2nd Sunday After the Epiphany—Communion  
Psalm 40:1-11 —“He Lifted Me ”  
Music: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness; I Love the Lord*
- January 22—3rd Sunday After the Epiphany  
1 Cor. 1:10-18 —“UNITED”  
Music: *The Church’s One Foundation; Help Us Accept Each Other*
- January 29—4th Sunday After the Epiphany  
Matthew 5:1-12 —“BE”  
Music: *Lord, Speak to Me; Blest Are They*

## Youth Group

All fun was had on December 11th!



The Youth Group and some of the Leaders went bowling in the new bowling alley in Warrenton and had some refreshments. Then we went to Maple Tree Farm for the Christmas lights extravaganza and had hot chocolate and other treats. A wonderful outing for all! Sandra Colvin and Karla Yocum



Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahn

Administrative Council Chair:  
Nancy PinsonVice Council Chair:  
Carlton HaydenStaff-Parish Relations:  
Rosanne WilliamsonFinance Committee Chair:  
Lewis Lee

Trustees Chair: Ava Lee

Church Treasurer:  
Donna BroadbentRecording Secretary:  
Gary PinsonNurture/Fellowship  
Committee Chair:  
Charlene HahneMission & Outreach  
Committee Chairs:  
Sandra Colvin,  
Karla YocumUnited Methodist Women  
President: Dolores GoffLay Member to Annual  
Conference: Brett HahneDistrict Conference  
Representative & Steward:  
Murray Edwards

## Music Notes

### THE GIFT OF MUSIC

This will be my last contribution to the Bethel Beacon as Music Director. I've been once again pondering what I might like to say. Since we are still in Christmas and Christmas is a special time of giving, I thought of the many gifts that the people of Bethel have to share. I guess my gift through the years has been the gift of music. I think back on my early days at Bethel and remember my "Kinderchoir." We had lots of little kids then, and my grandkids were a part of that group. Grandson, Caleb, was part of the "Kinderchoir." There were others, all of whom have now grown and gone on their way and who we see occasionally at church.

There was also the youth bell choir. These were older kids who also played the hand chimes and were an enthusiastic and musical group of young people. All of them have gone on with their lives and some now have children of their own. In cleaning out my "stuff" from the Bell Room, I found the many charts of bell music I have written through the years for these young musicians to follow.

Then, of course, there are the Hymndingers, previously known as the Glory Ringers or Ding Dongs. Let me assure everyone that this particular group is unique in that it has always been made up of folks of all ages and levels of experience and who have been amazingly faithful to the bell choir and to each other. Most of us started not knowing a lot about music or bell playing but I find this group to be especially caring and helpful and accepting of each other. And they make beautiful music together.

Lastly, I have been blessed with the opportunity of sharing my gift of music with the adult choir. What a fun group of dedicated people these folks are and what a gift their music has been to me. They are always willing to roll with the punches and have always been acceptable of my philosophy that singing in a choir should be fun and a joyful act of worship even when we have to resort to "Plan B" when too many people are absent or weather or illness dictates that we must change our plans. I must say that my time at choir director has been somewhat unusual as most of it has occurred during a pandemic when all the rules seemed to have changed. I think in many ways, this was a blessing, as almost every choir member and some who were not members, always responded "yes" when I asked them to help with special music. So many people rose out of

*Continued on next page*

### Bethel Breakthrough Prayer

God of grace and power, thank you for loving us and for hearing our prayers. Break through into Bethel Church, into our lives, our families, our community, and our world, with healing power and visible signs of your grace. Guide us in the ways of Jesus. Send the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future you desire for us; even when the present is full of uncertainty and anxiety. Lord, we are asking, seeking, and knocking. Open doors that will lead us on paths of faithful discipleship; and give us the courage to walk through those doors as we live our faith and share God's love. Amen.

their comfort zone to help in some way to ensure that we always had special music.

Well, I've wandered off course here a bit about the gift of music. My gift of music has been but a small part of the many gifts that I have seen so many people quietly give at Bethel Church .

My hope in closing, is that many of you have been blessed by my gift, of music, and I pray that Bethel will always be a place filled with music of all kinds that will include all people who are touched by music, no matter their age or talents.

Love and Hugs. Joice

## Computer Ministry

Did Santa bring you a new computer, tablet, or laptop this year? Ken and the Computer Ministry could really use your old system. Not to worry about the data on the system, Ken will clean it for you!

Questions? Call Ken at 540-272-1478. Thank you!

## Missions & Outreach

On December 18th at the Motel Ministry we distributed all the knitted caps that we talked about in the December Beacon.

We put them on rolls of toilet paper! The residents loved it! Some were able to take 2 for grandchildren as Christmas presents. (Not the toilet paper, but the knitted hats) :)

Karla Yocum and Sandra Colvin

Living our Faith, Sharing God's Love



## Thank You

I would like to say a very large THANK YOU to everyone at Bethel for supporting the music ministry during my time as Music Director. It was, indeed, a bittersweet celebration for me on January 1, 2023 as so many of you offered kind words and cards of well wishes for my retirement along with an opportunity to share a meal together. I have to say I have been the one most blessed by the opportunity to share music with all of you and will miss that part of my participation at Bethel. However, I am looking forward to a bit slower pace of life and maybe more opportunities to visit friends and family on weekends from time to time. And of course, to sit with Peggy as we both don our Sunday bonnets. Thank you all so much and looking forward to seeing you and continuing to support the music program in a new way.

Joice



**Ink Cartridges**

Donating used ink cartridges to the church helps us to get rewards at Staples that we use to purchase copy paper and other office supplies.

Thank you to all who donate!

## Finance & Worship Attendance

### Income & Expenses\*

December Income: \$27,141.00    December Expenses: \$23,632.18

YTD 2022 Income: \$279,106.60    YTD 2022 Expenses: \$277,109.26

\*Because the Beacon is published monthly, finances for the prior month will be reported.

## Attendance & Giving

### In-Person

December 4	55	84	125.51	\$8,433.00
December 11	51	99	126.00	\$4,435.00
December 18	35	73	125.65	\$8,998.00
December 24	5	110	127.90	*\$1,065.00
December 25	24	34	126.56	\$2,997.00

\*Donated to United Methodist Family Services

## Worship Update

We recently changed our mask mandate for worship and all other events at Bethel. If you feel safer or want to protect family members at home, please feel free to wear a mask. If you want to come without a mask, you are welcome to do so. We have begun meeting in the Sanctuary. Air purifiers are running in the sanctuary before, during, and after worship service.

Communion will be served by intinction on the first and third Sundays of the month. Although we have discontinued drive-thru communion, elements will be available for pick up on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Parish House.

**Bethel United Methodist Church**  
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