

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.
1100 Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113
bbc1817@verizon.net | www.bbc1817.org
804-794-8590



BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 57 No. 1 January 2025

Inside This Issue

Article from Pastor Todd	pg. 1-2	Four Ways to Give	pg. 4	Pilgrimage to Greece	pg. 3
Bethel Cookbook	pg. 3	January Birthdays	pg. 3	Preschool News	pg. 2
Brotherhood Breakfast	pg. 3	Ladies Fellowship Lunch	pg. 2	Sharing & Caring	pg. 3
The Boxcast App	pg. 4	Men's Fellowship Lunch	pg. 2	Sunday School Classes	pg. 4
Charlotte's Pantry	pg. 4	Opportunities	pg. 4	Wednesday Night Programs	pg. 3
Column Burial Project	pg. 2	Parish Nurse	pg. 3		

Embracing Spiritual Practices in 2025: "Practice Makes Perfect"

As I reflect on the past year, two significant events have provided me with a fresh perspective. First, the church graciously granted me a sabbatical, which allowed me the time to think deeply about many aspects of life. Second, and most wonderfully, our family was blessed with the birth of our grandson. These two experiences have caused me to think more intentionally about how we value and use our time—and as we move into 2025, this focus feels even more urgent.

It seems to me that the highest and best use of our time is to devote ourselves to becoming more Christlike. Pastor and author Andy Stanley puts it so beautifully: *"Following Jesus will make your life better and will make you better at life."* Not only does pursuing Christlikeness enrich our lives today, but it also prepares us for an eternity with Him. With that in mind, I'd like to introduce a theme for us to carry through 2025: *"Practice Makes Perfect."*

The word *"perfect"* here comes from Jesus' words in Matthew 5:48, where He says, *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* In this context, *"perfect"* doesn't mean flawless in the way the world defines it. Rather, it refers to being whole or complete—complete in our spiritual formation and relationship with God. This is a central part of our vision of *"Knowing, Growing, and Going in the Love of Christ."*

The theme *"Practice Makes Perfect"* has grown out of my reading of *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer. The message of the book is simple, yet profound: if we want to grow in Christlikeness, we strive to practice the spiritual disciplines that Jesus Himself modeled. These practices aren't just habits to adopt—they are pathways to wholeness and spiritual maturity.

In his book, Comer outlines nine essential spiritual disciplines that Jesus regularly practiced. Over the course of this year, we'll explore each of these disciplines together.

They are:

1. **Sabbath** – A day for rest, worship, and renewal. Jesus showed us that rest is essential, not a luxury.
2. **Prayer** – Jesus' life was deeply rooted in intimate prayer with the Father. Prayer is the heartbeat of our relationship with God.
3. **Fasting** – Fasting helps us focus on God by letting go of temporary comforts, clearing space for God's voice to be heard more clearly.
4. **Solitude** – Jesus often withdrew to be alone with God. Solitude creates quiet space for us to hear His voice amidst the noise of life.
5. **Scripture** – Jesus lived by God's Word, and we are called to do the same—letting Scripture shape our hearts and minds.
6. **Community** – Jesus surrounded Himself with close friends, His disciples. We are made to live in community, supporting, encouraging, and challenging one another.
7. **Simplicity** – Jesus lived free from material excess, calling us to focus on what truly matters in life.
8. **Generosity** – Jesus modeled radical generosity. We are called to give freely of our time, resources, and love.
9. **Hospitality** – Jesus welcomed everyone, offering dignity and belonging, especially to those often overlooked.

I've been practicing several of these disciplines for years—things like Scripture reading, prayer, and observing a 24-hour Sabbath. Some disciplines, like fasting and simplicity, are newer to me. I don't claim to be an expert in any of them, but I'm excited to continue learning and growing in my relationship with the Lord through these practices.

The theme *"Practice Makes Perfect"* reminds us that spiritual growth is a lifelong journey. Just as athletes improve through consistent practice, we grow spiritually by intentionally engaging with these disciplines. Over time, our lives become increasingly shaped by Christ's love, peace, and purpose.

To kick off this journey, we've invited Steve Booth to speak on **Brotherhood Sunday, January 19th**. Steve has an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience—having served for over seventeen years as the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation at First Baptist Church in Richmond and currently serving as a Counselor and Leadership Coach for Shepherd's Staff Ministry. Steve has been coaching me for the past couple of years, and I've learned so much from him about the spiritual disciplines that Jesus practiced. He'll be preaching during our morning worship service and we've asked him to lead a special session during the Sunday School hour on one of the spiritual disciplines (stay tuned for more details!). I truly hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to learn from Steve's wisdom and insight. Please note, Brotherhood Sunday will kick off with breakfast at 8:45 am.



Steve Booth

As we enter this new year, let's commit ourselves to "Practicing the Way" of Christ. Let's be intentional about following His example, so that we might experience the wholeness, peace, and transformation that come from living in His love. May His love shape us as we strive to live out our vision of *Knowing, Growing, and Going in the Love of Christ*.

Happy New Year, and may God bless you all. I look forward to all that God will do in and through us in 2025! - *Todd*

Column Burial Project Update



The Memorial Association and the Building & Grounds Committee are excited about the progress being made on the Column Burial Project located near the Breezeway between the People of Hope Center and the Educational Buildings.

Niche's have been ordered and will be inserted by the brick mason along with the black tiles chosen by the majority of our congregation. This will almost double the capacity for our membership that chooses

cremation to our existing cemetery. During this construction phase, the area behind the Educational Buildings is also being worked on to improve safety and drainage. You are welcome to take a look but be careful of the construction in progress. We hope to complete the project soon, weather permitting.

If you have questions or may be interested in a cremation vault for the future please contact Bob Moseley or Sherwood Dance. Upon completion this will be a beautiful sanctuary area that will supplement our Bethel Historic Cemetery for use by our membership for years to come.

Preschool News

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! I cannot wrap my head and the fact that we are now in 2025 (and I will likely not grasp that on any checks I write until at least March...) and onto the second half of our preschool year. After a busy and exciting month of December, our students are ready to continue learning and having fun over the next several months of preschool.

There will be lots happening in the month of January. Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year begins on January 1st. Our current preschool families will be able to sign their children up for the next school year prior to opening enrollment to the public in February. We are thrilled to be able to offer even more opportunities and programs for our families in the next year and, God willing, will fill all available spots.

Our teachers will also start performing student assessments during the month of January. These evaluations help the teachers to gauge where each child is developmentally and academically. The teachers use their findings to tweak the classroom curriculums and to assist the parents in their practices at home. I would also like to remind everyone that the preschool will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Now that we are into the winter season, there is always a chance for inclement weather. The preschool follows Powhatan County Public School's inclement weather closings and delays. If we must close or open late, we will send out emails to all families and will also post an announcement on the Bethel Baptist Preschool Facebook page.

If you have not done so recently, be sure to take a walk down our preschool hallways sometime. Our teachers hang student artwork throughout the hallway and it is sure to put a smile on your face. And, of course, the library ladies always have the most phenomenal window displays. Our little corridor will bring you joy during these dark winter months.

As always, our preschool is so thankful for your prayers and support.

Wishes for a happy and prosperous 2025,
Heather Kerns, Preschool Director


Men's Fellowship Lunch is January 2

The Men's Fellowship Lunch for January is **Thursday, January 2, at noon at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan**. If you have any questions please contact Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886. All men are welcome.

Ladies Fellowship Lunch is January 30

The Ladies Fellowship Lunch will be on **Thursday, January 30 at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian**. All women are invited. If you would like more information about the Ladies Fellowship Lunch, or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can reserve a place for you.

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
5 ● Communion Sunday ● Sunday School 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs	6 ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC ● WMU, 10 am, POHC	7 ● Garden Club, 10 am, POHC ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC	8 ● Charlotte's Partry, 5 to 6:30 pm ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavor's Room ● Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Downstairs ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	9 ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Downstairs ● Deadline for Articles for the February Newsletter	10	11
12 ● Sunday School 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs	13 ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC	14 ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC	15 ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavor's Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	16 ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Downstairs ● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 pm ● Zoom Informational Meeting for Pilgrimage to Greece Trip, 7 pm	17	18
19 ● Brotherhood Sunday, Breakfast at 8:45 am, POHC ● Sunday School 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs	20 <i>Preschool Closed</i> ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC	21 ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC	22 ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavor's Room ● Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Downstairs ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	23 ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Downstairs	24 ● Charlotte's Partry, 9 to 11 am	25
26 ● Sunday School 9:30 am ● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC ● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs	27 ● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs ● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC	28 ● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC	29 ● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavor's Room ● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	30 ● Ladies Fellowship Lunch, Noon at Four Seasons Restaurant ● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Downstairs	31 ● Bethel Preschool Fun Friday, 9 am to Noon, POHC	

The Boxcast App

The AV Team has a way to view Bethel's complete church services on your Apple TV, Roku, or Smart TV, using the Boxcast app. The app will provide a simple, high quality way to view services on your TV so the entire family can watch together.



Simply follow these instructions:

1. Add the Boxcast app to your device.
2. Search for the church's channel by searching for Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian, VA. (NOTE: Spelling and punctuation is important when searching.)
3. Once you find the channel the church's logo will appear. Select this channel.
4. You are DONE.

Four Ways to Give at Bethel

1. **In Person:** Drop your check in the offering plate as it is passed in the People of Hope Center Sunday mornings.
2. **Send a check to our secure mailbox.** The address is: Bethel Baptist Church, 1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113.
3. **Online Giving:** On Bethel's website there is a link to give. Click on the link and you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. You may also use this link for online giving: <https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/>
4. **Text Giving:** Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804)361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction.

As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

Charlotte's Pantry

January Pantry Schedule

- Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 5 to 6:30 pm
- Friday, January 24, 2025, 9 to 11 am



Sunday School Classes

The following classes meet weekly:

- The Providers Class meets in the Providers Classroom in the People of Hope Center
- The Endeavors Class meets in the Endeavors Classroom in the People of Hope Center
- The Salt and Light Class meets in the last room on the right in the Education Building (it is marked Salt and Light)
- Students in grades K-5 meet in the Jigsaw Room, downstairs
- Students in grades 6-12 meet in the Youth Room, downstairs

The nursery is open during Sunday School for our younger children.

The Zoom class is from the Providers classroom.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F0OE4RUJNVHhIK1pGRmIDQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993

Passcode: 139739

Opportunities!

Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir
- WMU (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 am)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (during worship)
- Friends of the Homeless (Meets 5th Mondays at 8:30 am. See Ardelle Florence)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 pm
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Cindy Wight)
- Care Team Ministry (See Jane Ruehrwein)

Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch meets the first Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Ladies Fellowship Lunch meets the last Thursday of each month at noon (See Shirley Lewis)
- Youth Group meets every other Wednesday night at 6:30 pm
- Sacred Circle, meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm
- Sunday School Classes meet every Sunday at 9:30 am
- Brotherhood Breakfast is held every 5th Sunday (See Bob Moseley)
- JIGSAW children's ministry meets every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Sharing and Caring Group meets every Monday at 9 am in the People of Hope Center (See Bruce Bartlam)

January Birthdays

Best Wishes to all Celebrating a Birthday in January

1 - Erin Chauncey	16 - Robbie Cordle Gill
2 - Ryan McGinnis	17 - Jake Florence
4 - Leah Ellis	19 - Natalie Baker
4 - Jackie Carr	19 - Bob Beasley
5 - Eli Oatman	20 - Karen Smith
5 - Caroline Bransford	21 - Elliott Moore
5 - Doug Wight	21 - Rachael Bailey
6 - Jerry Jenkins	22 - Shawn Smith
6 - Michael Smith	23 - Alan Hardy
7 - Leonard Vaughan	23 - Pete Walmsley
8 - Faye Cohen	24 - Becky Turner
10 - Jocelyn Vergara	26 - James Waller
11 - Michael Gerace	27 - Peyton DeShelter
12 - Michaela Goodman	27 - Mason Watkins
12 - Amanda McDade	27 - Michael Roper
14 - Justin Whitney	28 - Tyler Brock
15 - Elizabeth Atkinson	29 - Manny Sanchez
15 - Cameron Wynne	30 - Lindsey Brown
16 - John Pulley, Jr.	

Wednesday Night Programs in January

Wednesday, January 1 - No Sacred Circle - Happy New Year!
 Wednesday, January 8 - Sacred Circle - 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, January 15 - Sacred Circle - 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, January 22 - Sacred Circle - 6 pm, People of Hope Center
 Wednesday, January 29 - Sacred Circle - 6 pm, People of Hope Center

Sharing and Caring

The "Sharing and Caring" group meets each **Monday morning at 9 am.** in the People of Hope Center. For more info, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

February Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Outreach Newsletter is **January 9**. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be dropped off in the church office or emailed to karnold@bbc1817.org before **January 9**. Thank you for your help!

A Note from Our Parish Nurse

Happy New Year!

I pray you all had a wonderful Christmas and that 2025 will be filled with love, joy and good health.

New beginnings come in many varieties: a new job, new marriage, new home, a new or renewed relationship with the Lord...Go in faith and kindness and have a wonderful month.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month!

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. Although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages.

The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get a comprehensive eye examination. For more information please visit: Glaucoma.org

I have ordered a Glaucoma booklet for the Faith Nurse office for anyone interested.

Free Covid test kits can be ordered at the link below:

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Have a blessed month,
Cindy Luck RN FCN

Pilgrimage to Greece



There will be a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 pm** to learn more about the *Pilgrimage to Greece (October 7 - 18, 2025)*. This journey will take us through the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, visiting historic sites like **Athens, Corinth, Thessalonca and Philippi**.

The Zoom session will give you the chance to ask questions and get details about the trip. If you're unable to attend, or you're not familiar with Zoom, please reach out to **Todd or Karen** for more information.

We truly believe this pilgrimage will deepen your understanding of Scripture and the early church. It's been said visiting the lands where the Apostle Paul traveled is like experiencing a "5th Gospel," offering fresh insights into the Word of God and its application to our lives. We'd love for you to experience this with us!

January Brotherhood Breakfast

The next Brotherhood Breakfast will be held **Sunday, January 19 at 8:45 am**. If you are able to help cook and/or set-up, please plan to arrive at 7:00 am. If you are able to bring a dish, please let Bob Moseley know. And, don't forget, guest speaker, Steve Booth will be on-site that day as well.

Bethel Cookbook

The Bethel Cookbook officially sold out in mid-December. A big thank you to everyone who contributed recipes and to every one who purchased cookbooks. The proceeds benefit Blessing Warriors.

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 2133
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 am Sunday School | 10:30 am Worship

HAPPY
New Year!