



## July Calendar of Events

### Thursday, July 9

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Food Pantry

### Wednesday, July 22

Shut-in meals delivered

### Thursday, July 23

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Food Pantry

## Ongoing Events

### Sundays

9:00 AM - Sunday School

Choir practice

10:00 AM - Worship Service

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## Missing Spokes Ruin the Wheel

When I was a boy I kept a piece of stiff cardboard clipped to my bicycle so that it would flap against the revolving spokes on the wheel. The sound implied a kind of motor power.

That cardboard would eventually work the spokes loose and sometimes it broke a few of them. I learned early on, that the spoke is a very important part of the wheel, and it turns on its bearings only when all of the spokes are tight and in place.

Any spoke will lead an ant to the hub of the wheel, that is, if it's not broken.

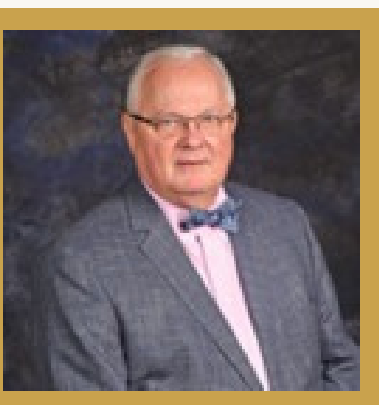
All of us are like the spokes leading into the heart of this great nation, and in turn, feeding the power out from the center. The system works well except when some of us behave like broken spokes. A loose spoke is indifferent to the forces at either the hub or the rim. The citizen who shuns responsibility, breaks laws and refuses to acknowledge the heritage we have, is a missing spoke that cause the whole society to sputter and hesitate.

As we look with dismay at all that is happening around us in our world, it reminds us of our own responsibility, lest we become negligent and faulty spokes ourselves.

Likewise, all of this is not only true of us as citizens but as church members as well. The person who rarely attends, gives little and helps none, is making the church grind along more slowly. We take for granted a few loose or broken spokes on any wheel. We get accustomed to having names on the church rolls that are meaningless; we ought not.

America desperately needs people who care - and so does the church. May God help us to be that.

- Tresco E. Shannon



Reverend Tresco E. Shannon

# In Our Prayers

## Shut-ins/ Nursing Home/Distant Members

Jane Brown, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Lynn Harrison, Joy Lawson, Vera Newington, Jeanine Price, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, Miriam Westbury

## Military Service

Cody Keeney, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Jackson Long, Matthew Mangum, Jordan Ray



In memory of Charles Strickland  
given by Stewart & Becky Goodwin



## Beside Still Waters

July often invites us outdoors—to quiet mornings, gentle breezes, and the peaceful beauty of God's creation. Along the marshes and waterways of the Lowcountry, the stillness has a way of slowing our hurried thoughts and reminding us that God is never in a rush.

Psalm 23 tells us that the Good Shepherd "leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul." Before God asks us to serve, He first invites us to rest in His presence. Before we can encourage others, we must allow Him to renew our own hearts.

The world often measures our worth by how much we accomplish. Christ reminds us that our greatest strength comes from remaining close to Him. In moments of quiet prayer, unhurried worship, and grateful reflection, He restores what busy schedules and daily burdens can quietly drain away.

As you enjoy the beauty of this summer season, take time to notice God's fingerprints all around you—in the song of a bird, the gentle movement of marsh grass, the laughter of family, or the kindness of a friend. These ordinary moments become holy when we recognize the presence of the One who walks beside us.

May this month be one of both faithful service and peaceful renewal, trusting that the Shepherd who leads us beside still waters is also leading us every step of the way.



"He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."  
—Psalm 23:2-3



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Bethel United Methodist Church is a great church filled with the love and grace granted us by God. Through your prayers, your actions, and your giving we are making Christian disciples in all areas of our lives and in our world. We are especially grateful for the support that you already give to Bethel through the work that you do and the financial gifts that you share.

On March 23, at our Church Council Meeting, our congregation approved the resolution to purchase the former District Parsonage in the amount of \$350,000. The Finance Committee has approved a capital campaign in order to reduce our total debt of \$190,000.

Direct gifts to the church may now be made. You may write your check to Bethel UMC, designating it for "Parsonage Fund". Checks may be placed in the offering plate any Sunday, dropped off to the church office, or mailed to Bethel UMC at 355 Hampton Street, Walterboro, SC 29488.

Bethel has always been able to count on her people. Thank you for everything you already do for Bethel.

Sincerely,  
 Jamie Bunton,  
 Chair of Finance



### Preparing for a New School Year

While our preschool classrooms are quiet for the summer, exciting things are already happening behind the scenes! We are delighted to welcome Ginny Bishop as our new Preschool Director. Ginny served as our two-year-old teacher last year, and we know she will lead our preschool with the same love, creativity, and dedication that have blessed our children and families.

As we prepare to welcome students back in August, Ginny has created an Amazon Wish List filled with classroom supplies, learning materials, and other items that will help make this a wonderful year of discovery and growth.

If you would like to support the ministry of Bethel Preschool, we invite you to browse the wish list and consider purchasing an item. Every gift—large or small—helps create a nurturing, Christ-centered environment where young children can learn, play, and experience God's love each day.

View the Bethel Preschool [Amazon Wish List](#): (right click on the text - open link - if you're viewing this online)

The Bethel Preschool Amazon Wish List is also available on the church's Facebook page.



- July 1 Jim Hiott
- July 2 Keeley Farris, Emily Stroble
- July 4 Ben Barnett, Tristen Beach
- July 6 DeLoris Hamilton, Melinda Moorer
- July 7 Jenna McGuire
- July 8 Patsy Avant, Buddy Deloach
- July 9 Jeff Slocum, Blake Spears
- July 10 Beth Smoak
- July 11 Jim Bunton
- July 12 Mary Hunter Stoddard
- July 13 Josh White
- July 14 Huitt Rowe
- July 15 Billy Drawdy, Jessica Williams
- July 16 Olivia Burttram
- July 17 Janna Davis, Phyllis Mangum,  
Donald Rizer, Anne Hatcher White
- July 18 Charlie Hoffman, Chad Spell
- July 19 Austin Williams
- July 20 Dawson Beach, Robert Epinette
- July 21 Julie Hiott, Jill Stephens
- July 22 Lawson Griffith
- July 24 Charlie Armentrout
- July 25 Parks Mangum, Jerry Smoak
- July 26 Hal Dean
- July 27 West Brown
- July 28 Molly Watkins
- July 29 Shelli Duncan, Bo Hetrick, Donna Rizer
- July 31 Gary Hermann, Penelope Tuten



- July 3 Roy & Tandy Metzendorf
- July 9 Ellison & Marie Young
- July 15 Charles & Sylvia Rowland
- July 16 Greg & Lesli Pryor
- July 28 James & Becky Broderick



To my Bethel family...thank you for your love offering and loving recognition at my retirement as choir director, and thank you for your faithful support, encouragement, and understanding throughout the years of my directorship. It has been a great pleasure to lead our wonderful chancel choir and bell choir over these past several years. I look forward to serving the Lord as He directs my steps and continues to work in my life.  
 Your servant in Christ, Tom

## “If I Were Being Hanged”

There is a story of a time when Sir Winston Churchill was on a speaking tour and was stopped by a woman who said to him in a very gushing voice, “Doesn’t it thrill you, Mr. Churchill, to know that every time you make a speech the hall is packed and overflowing?”

“It is quite flattering”, Churchill replied, “but whenever I feel this way, I always remember that if –I were being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big!”

It inspires me, as it does any preacher, to walk into the pulpit and face a full congregation. But like Sir Winston, I know that if I were being hanged, the crowd would be twice as large.

We always hope that people come to church for more than the fifteen or twenty minutes of entertainment from the pulpit, just as I long for the day when we select our political leaders on grounds other than their hair cut, the personalities of the children, or the attractiveness of their wives or husbands.

In a survey conducted not long ago out in Houston, Texas, people were asked, “Why did you choose this church?” The results were:

- 3% because of the minister
- 8% because of the facilities
- 11% because of the music
- 30% because of the people
- 44% because someone invited them**
- 4% because of miscellaneous reasons

I hope you will be in your place on Sundays. We won’t hang the preacher, but we will rejoice in our salvation by faith in Christ. Maybe **you** ought to invite someone.

- Tresco E. Shannon



The church doors are open...

Now go and invite someone.

