

Heard through

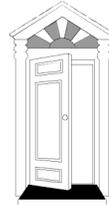
The OPEN DOOR

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Editors: Chylene Daub & Shirley Giebel

Please Welcome Jeff Fothergill in His New Role as Our Pastor

Jeff returned a call from this reporter for an interview for an Open Door story while he was busy at Annual Conference, held this year in Branson. While Jeff is well known to our congregation and has served Bethel in many ways over the years, a look at this new role seemed in order. Speaking of his new role Jeff says he is confident in God and “99% excited!”

Jeff’s Journey. Jeff says, “I was far from a church person as a kid. My parents took me to church and Sunday school when I was a child. I dropped out of church when I got to Middle School.” Jeff puts it bluntly, “I just didn’t like church.”

Jeff grew up of course and met Carol and they married in 1986. She went to a Methodist church and the new couple began attending services and being active volunteers in church activities. “I realized however,” Jeff says “that it was making no difference in my life.”

In 1999 Jeff and Carol moved into this area. They had their daughter Allie by that time and decided to try finding a church again. They tried other Methodist churches in our area, but it wasn’t until they walked into Bethel that they found the church they were looking for. “We met Ruth Anne Krueger who welcomed us. We found the church awesome and kept coming back.”

Along the way Jeff became a lay person, lay servant. These titles indicate that Jeff has reached certain standards and levels of education required for that role. He has now served in that capacity for 15 years. He fills in, generally on an emergency basis, for a pastor who must be away from the pulpit for a Sunday, or in a recent emergency, for an extended period of time. His new role at Bethel comes with the blessing of the Board and our District Superintendent.



Please Welcome Jeff Fothergill in His New Role as Our Pastor (cont.)

New Role. Jeff is not ordained. There are certain things he cannot do: baptize, marry, and give communion. We will still have communion with the hosts blessed by a recognized person and taken to Bethel for a month or so. We will still have the communion words we recognize and cherish.

One of the most important things Jeff relayed is that he is a listener and intends to do a lot of it. His role is for 10 hours a week and he will be working closely with the Vision committees. As Bethel steps out in many new and exciting directions, we can look at Jeff's role as one of the directions God is taking us.

Remembering "The Snowmaker" Christmas Play, 2013

In December, 2013, Bethel UMC presented a Christmas play entitled "The Snowmaker." It was the story of an imaginary Western town called Calico in the early 1870's. The children of the town all wanted one special gift for Christmas. They wanted to have a snowfall for the first time ever. Of course, this was nearly impossible for a town in a desert climate. However, a stranger came to town in a fancy carriage pulled by a stunningly beautiful little white mare.



This man promised that he could make it snow, only if a donation was made to the orphanage in town. The miracle did happen, not because the man had special powers, but because of his horse who brought snow on Christmas Eve, wherever they happened to be.

The narrator for our Christmas play, dressed in full Western attire, was Jeff Fothergill. The play ended with a snowball fight among the kids. They were artificial snowballs, of course, and there was a snowfall effect projected onto the scene.

Bethel UMC Contribution Counters of Gifts From the Heart

Stand back and consider for a moment that you could conceivably go to church every Sunday for life and never have to buy a ticket to get in, or deal with a bill for attending regular services, never forced to give even a widows mite. You can even pass along the collection plate without recrimination for not putting anything in it. Contributions, then, are gifts from the heart. Bethel has a long line of the faithful who grew Bethel church through good times and bad. Our church continues working hard and giving to keep the doors of our church open and welcoming, and fulfilling the Scriptures lead for giving.

Prompt Counting, Accurate Recording Required.



The collection plates are taken to the church office immediately after the church service ends where the counting and recording are done. Scheduled for the current year with the dates each will serve each month are: Sheila Olive, Ruth Anne Krueger, Bert Foster, Suzi Hladky, Ron Guentz, Dale Reed, and Barb Jacobs. The monthly schedule is printed in The Open Door.

Sound easy? Bert Foster shared the detailed two-page, single spaced instruction sheet that guides the counters. The weekly recording done on the counter's tally sheet is definitely a challenge. The budgeted envelopes for general fund etc., must record checks, currency and coin and give accurate totals for each.. The Loose Plate Offering has some 16 categories including unidentified givers, special holiday giving, cemetery, and fundraising, etcetera. Talley slips are made for the proper category to be attached to the finished count and secured for handling deposits the next business day. All checks are sorted by the information on the payee and memo lines. The checks are then copied so that we have a record after deposit of original check at the bank. Every step ensures that an accurate total and supporting tally match. Totals are then recorded in our computer.

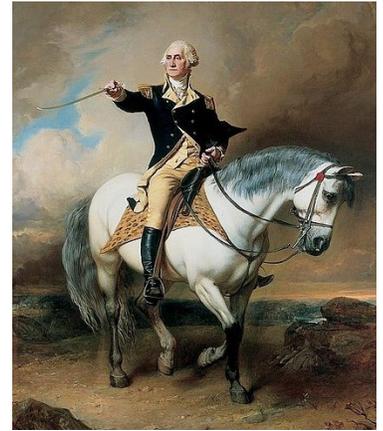
Credit to Donors Assured. After the end of each year as Income tax filing looms, Bethel givers receive a detailed record of their giving. It is nothing short of amazing as you review each entry that things show up you may have forgotten you gave to.

Fullfilling Scriptures. Scripture has many references to alms giving, taking care of the poor and spreading the word of Christ throughout the world.

George Washington—Hero for the Ages

Bullets were flying. The battle was along a creek, just south of Princeton, New Jersey. General George Washington had ordered a brigade to destroy a bridge over the creek when they were attacked by British redcoats. Fierce fighting ensued, and Washington heard the gunfire. He sprang to his horse and galloped to the scene. His men were outnumbered so he ordered re-enforcements. At first, the Americans had the upper hand, but then their commander Gen. Hugh Mercer was knocked to the ground, and overtaken by British bayonets. Many began to run toward the woods. This was when Washington appeared. He waved to his men with his hat and spurred them back into battle. He was at the very front of the firing, only 30 paces from the British line.

Astride his huge white horse, Washington stunned the British who looked up from their muskets and stared at him, admiring his courage. Gunfire resumed and for a moment, Washington was hidden from view by the smoke. Some thought they saw him fall and were sure he was dead. But when the smoke cleared, Washington was still there, unharmed. He called to his men to fight and they rallied behind him. They continued their pursuit and were joined by the militia from Philadelphia. The British ordered a retreat, with the Americans close behind. This was the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777. It lasted less than half an hour, but helped to establish the distinguished military career of George Washington.



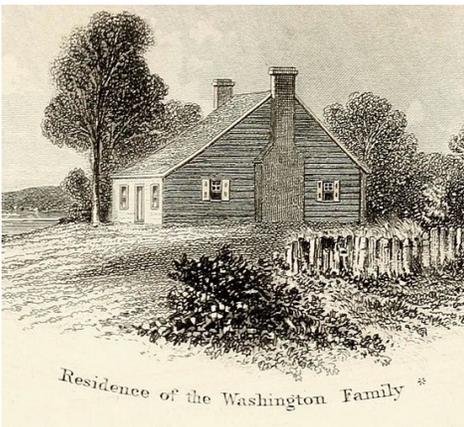
This story of bravery of George Washington in battle is only one of many such tales. He often was described as fearless, and invincible to bullets. When fighting alongside General Braddock in the French & Indian War, it was reported that Washington had survived a battle in which two horses were shot out from under him, his coat and his hat were pierced by bullets. Yet, he escaped unscathed.

George Washington was intrepid in battle. He proved to be a courageous military leader who was beloved by his men, a statesman who earned the respect of his country, a successful plantation owner, a loyal family man and distinguished gentleman. But above all, he was a devout Christian who deeply believed that it was God who was guiding the steps to establish the United States. He believed that God was on the side of the Americans, and he intended that religious freedom in the United Colonies would apply to all religions. He often referred to God as “Kind Providence.” Shortly after taking on the task of commander in chief, he wrote to John Adams: “We have nothing, my Dear Sir, to depend upon, but the protection of a Kind Providence.”

George Washington—Hero for the Ages (continued)

Throughout his military service, Washington relied on his Christian faith to guide him. He prayed daily and encouraged his men to pray also. He was Anglican, but during the war, he attended services at various local denominations. He also provided services for his soldiers held by military chaplains, and even led some services himself. Everyone who knew Washington was aware of his commitment to his religion and his devotion of Jesus Christ.

George Washington was born Feb. 22, 1732, at Bridges Creek, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. His great grandfather John Williams had come to America in 1657 from England, to escape religious persecution. His father, Augustine Washington had been a sailor and fell heir to a large Virginia Estate. At George's birthplace, a sundial in an herb garden bears this inscription: "Here a Matchless Flower came to Birth – Time Passed and Blessed the Spot."



Young George grew up on a plantation of 1,000 acres that stretched for a mile along the Potomac River. George's mother Mary Ball was much younger than her husband. Her ancestors also had fled England at the time of the Puritan uprising. George's father died unexpectedly when George was only 11 years old. He was left under the guardianship of his step brother Lawrence who was a son from Augustine's first marriage, and at age 16, George came to live at Mount Vernon.

Until 1747, George attended school regularly. He did not attend college, but he was an avid reader, most often reading and studying the Bible. He loved the outdoors and learned to raise tobacco and grains for the livestock. He became an excellent horseman from a young age, and worked fulltime as a surveyor. When in the Shenandoah Valley he encountered Indians, both hostile and those he could communicate with. He loved the wilderness and saw the potential for the nation's westward expansion.

In 1752, his brother Lawrence died from tuberculosis. George had traveled to Barbados with Lawrence who had gone there for his health. This was to be the only sea journey that George ever made in his life and the only time he ever left the continental U.S. He would never forget this trip because while there, he contracted smallpox and bore the pockmarks on his face for the rest of his life. George was executor of Lawrence's will and residuary heir of the Mount Vernon estate. Lawrence's daughter Sarah was the direct heir of the estate, but she died just two months later with no descendants. George was only 20 years old and he now had the sole responsibility of managing the large plantation. He had both white and slaves working to maintain the farm.

George Washington—*Hero for the Ages (continued)*

Although it was contrary to the laws of Virginia, Washington gave de-facto citizenship to his slaves. He also arranged for their freedom and upkeep upon his death. He did not believe in separating slave families, and he directed that the children of slaves be taught to read and write.

Early military experience for George Washington was as a major of the Virginia Militia. He served in the Ohio Valley and fought in the French & Indian War. He was named Commander-in-Chief of Virginia Military Forces from 1755 to 1758. During this time, he became knowledgeable about guerrilla warfare from fighting Indians. This was a tactic he used during the American Revolution that bewildered the British. Washington resigned his commission in 1758, and put full time into managing the Mount Vernon plantation. In January, 1759, George married Martha Dandridge Custis, a widow who had two children. He had acquired more acreage for his homestead and had become a wealthy Virginia planter. They were enjoying their life together. They attended church regularly, even though the ride to church was at least one and a half hours by horse and buggy. George was a vestryman in his Anglican church in Alexandria and worked with his neighbor George Mason to see to church repairs and fund raising.

But the winds of war were stirring. Colonists were protesting harsh treatment from the British crown. The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765, and the Boston Tea Party occurred in 1773. The first Continental Congress was held September 5, 1774, in Philadelphia. Washington attended, in full military uniform, a conspicuous figure indeed. Washington had not sought the appointment of Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army but he was the choice of the delegates. He was officially appointed on June 19, 1775. The Congress voted him a salary of \$500 a month plus expenses. He declined the salary, asking only for his expenses to be covered.

George Washington was a striking figure of a man. He stood 6 ft. 2 inches, which was nearly a head taller than most men of the day. Benjamin Latrobe, a colleague of Washington, said of his friend: "There is something uncommonly commanding and majestic in his walk, his address, his figure and his countenance." This man had the admiration of his fellow political leaders, and of the people. They knew that he had the experience, the determination and the stamina to oversee the fight. His only drawback was the army he would lead. The Continental militia was poorly equipped and ill-trained. They had no uniforms. These men were not soldiers. They were farmers, merchants and fishermen. But they were devoted to George Washington, and to the cause.

George Washington—Hero for the Ages (continued)

The British numbered as many as 25,000 trained soldiers, backed by the most powerful fleet on earth. The difference: Washington believed that God was on the side of the Americans. *It must also be remembered that when the 56 men put their signatures on the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, they knew they would be considered traitors by the British government, punishable by death.*

The American Revolution was a long, difficult war for George Washington and the Continental Army. There were many victorious battles, but also defeats along the way. Washington saw his men suffering in the snow, hungry and without enough clothing or blankets. The General said the tracks of the men could be followed by their bloody footprints in the snow. In March, 1776, the Americans forced the British to evacuate Boston, but the Continentals were pushed out of New York. British General Howe left German Hessian troops to guard New Jersey, while he and his troops prepared to winter in New York.

General Washington devised a bold plan to cross the Delaware River in the dead of night from Pennsylvania, into New Jersey, north of Trenton. His force had been reduced to about 2,400 men, with many men sick and others assigned to patrol the river at other crossing points. It was Christmas night. The men had received a welcome supply of blankets the day before which improved morale. Washington gave charge of planning the crossing to Colonel Henry Knox. He solicited large vessels to ferry the horses and large artillery. The infantry would be transported in sturdy wooden boats from the Durham Iron Works. The entire operation was to be accomplished quietly, in the dark. The weather was freezing sleet and snow. There were chunks of ice floating on the river.

Washington was among the first to cross. Other familiar names of his army included James Monroe, Alexander Hamilton and Future Chief Justice John Marshall. Washington watched as the last cannon were pushed ashore. The treacherous crossing had taken more hours than expected. The attack could not take place until daybreak. The men had paused to eat their meager breakfast rations. Some fell asleep in exhaustion. Washington watched as the officers tried to shake the men awake, and then witnessed that two of the men could not be roused. They had frozen to death.

The Hessians had been celebrating Christmas all night. The attack was a successful surprise. The Americans had to use their bayonets in battle because their water logged muskets could not fire, but they quickly overtook the enemy.



George Washington—*Hero for the Ages (continued)*

Washington's army returned across the Delaware to their waiting huts. They had marched and fought for as long as 50 hours over a distance of some 50 miles in the harsh snowy storm. But they had achieved the victory, and were rewarded with a belated Christmas dinner. The following year, Washington's army wintered at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, from December, 1777, until June, 1778. This was another brutal snowy winter and it is estimated that as many as 2,000 soldiers died from disease and malnutrition while there. In February of that encampment, Martha Washington arrived at the camp. Recognizing the needs of the men, she organized the women who were there to gather for a sewing circle. They were able to sew, knit and mend articles of clothing for the soldiers. The women also visited the hospitals and tried to lift their spirits.

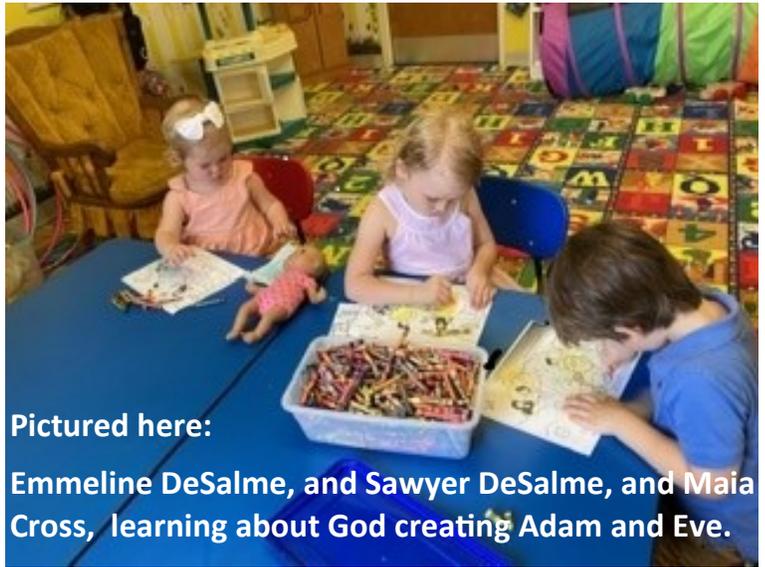
With the spring, there was some semblance of hope. Provisions were found and the men were supplied with beef, pork and bread. Horses and wagons were obtained. Roads and bridges were repaired and Washington was able to plan ahead for new battle strategies. There were many difficult days ahead, but the Continental Army would prevail. One of the final battles was a stunning defeat of the British at Yorktown, Pennsylvania, in October, 1781. Washington accepted the surrender of Lord Cornwallis after a decisive victory. It had been six years since George Washington had seen his home at Mount Vernon.

The war was not officially over, but people could see that the end was in sight, and many were ready to celebrate. As he prepared to make his trip home, he was met with artillery salutes and joyous crowds along the way. He was able to spend two days with Martha and some new grandchildren. The peace treaty between the United States and Great Britain was signed in Paris on November 30, 1782. When all negotiations finally ended there were tearful farewells between Washington and the men who had fought alongside him throughout the war. But, of course, he had another job to do for America. He was elected the first president of the United States unanimously, the only president ever to be so chosen. He took the oath of office in New York on April 30, 1789. He added the phrase "So help me God," as he completed the oath. Every president since has also uttered these words. He served two terms and then retired to Mount Vernon. Washington died at home on December 14, 1799.

Many eulogies were offered in remembrance of George Washington. Perhaps the best remembered one was from Henry Lee who wrote: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Bethel's Nursery is Open Once Again!

The photo tells the story! Our bright, cheerful nursery for infants and small children—with its stock of toys and things to amuse the little ones—was available Sunday, June 12 for the first time since the pandemic. Carla DeSalme, a mother and grandmother herself, took on the task and seemed to enjoy her three little charges while their parents and grandparents were attending Sunday service not very far away in the Sanctuary. Yet another sign of progress, and one more piece of good news: Ginger will once again be in the nursery every Sunday. Get out the good word!



Pictured here:
Emmeline DeSalme, and Sawyer DeSalme, and Maia Cross, learning about God creating Adam and Eve.



Second Highway Clean Up for 2022 a Success

Saturday morning June 18, Alison and Mark Verbeck, joined by Carla and Frederick DeSalme, Karl Schoenefeld and Don Walsh, cleaned up Bethel's area of highway 100 from Pond Road to Taylor on both sides. They picked up 11 bags of trash. Lets hear a big shout out of thanks!

Turning Up the Burner on Bethel Breakfast Celebration

Nina Hayes and Carla DeSalme report a good turnout for the men's breakfast at Bethel to celebrate Father's Day Saturday morning, June 18. An email invitation and word went out Saturday evening for breakfast to also be served at 8:30 Sunday morning, June 19 for all to join in. Words of thanks and gratitude were heard expressing the joy that we can be together for this Bethel tradition once again.



Louella P, Ruth A,
Thanks for your donation of stamps.—Bethel UMC



Gary & Ron,
Thanks for all your hard work fixing the mailboxes.—Bethel UMC

Bethel Family,
Thank you for your time of recognition, cards, and words of kindness at the close of worship Sunday. We pray that the ministry road ahead be fruitful... Pastor Bob & family

OPEN Praise Team

Anyone with singing or instrumental musical talents interested in helping the praise team please get in contact with Shirley Martka ASAP.

Giving

In an effort to make you aware of our ongoing income and expenses Bert, our treasurer, has calculated our monthly expenses and we have provided a total of our offerings for the given month as follows:

Total estimated monthly expenses: \$16,500
Total offerings received as of 6/27/22: \$ 17,626

Faith In Action—Summer Kid Bags

Circle of Concern is requesting monetary donations so they can buy kid friendly foods such as: mac & cheese, pb&j, canned pasta, cereal, cheese sticks, and fresh fruit to bridge the summer hunger gap.

Also, they are in **critical** need of the following items:

cereal, snacks, dinner helpers, canned fruit, jelly,
kid's body wash, shaving cream, and multi-size pack tampons

Please leave non-perishable food donations in the shopping cart next to the elevator. Thanks for your donations!



On The Calendar @ Bethel

- Christian Perspectives Class**—Sundays @ 9am
- Bethel Fitness**—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am
- Crafters & Prayer Shawl Warriors**—Thursdays @ 9:30am
- Pastor Jeff returns to Bethel**—Sunday, July 3
- Ice cream Social**—Sunday, July 10
- Juliets' Luncheon**—Tuesday, July 14 at Sunny Street Cafe @ 11:30



Fellowship Time

Join us for coffee & breakfast in fellowship hall after worship every Sunday.
ALL are welcome.

Nursery

Now open during Sunday service.

**We are blessed to have a good number of gifted lay leaders
willing to help make our Zoom service a success.**

Our schedule for July is as follows...

<u>Date</u>	<u>Devotion</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>ZOOM</u>	<u>PPT</u>
7/3	PJeff	Shirley	Don W	PJeff	TBD	TBD
7/10	PJeff	Shirley	Diana W	PJeff	TBD	TBD
7/17	PJeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJeff	TBD	TBD
7/24	PJeff	Shirley	Shirley G	PJeff	TBD	TBD
7/31	PJeff	Shirley	Louella	PJeff	TBD	TBD

**The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.
We welcome additional volunteers, please call if interested. Training is provided.**

July 2022 Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

	Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	Bert	Ron	OPEN
July	3	10	17	24	31

July 2022 Counters Schedule

	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	RuthAnne/Suzi	Ron	RuthAnne/Barb
July	3	10	17	24	31



Bethel United Methodist Church
17500 Manchester Road
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907



JULY
News!



Bethel United Methodist Church

***Love God,
Love Others,
Serve All!***

Please Join Us Sunday For Service

Service will be **LIVE** (with social distancing) in the sanctuary
@ **10 a.m.** or you can use one of the following:

Church webpage: www.bethelunitedmethodist.org

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/BethelUMCWildwood> "Like Us" on Facebook.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/BethelUMCWildwood>

Zoom: Please contact the church office at 636-458-2255 to receive the link.