



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

September 2, 2018 – 11:00 am  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*“If those who claim devotion to God don’t control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.”*

James 1:26-27 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Got a problem you need to fix? YouTube it! Chances are, someone out there has recorded a video that will give you step-by-step instruction on solving the issue. Doesn’t matter whether it’s a home repair or an opossum that needs massaging (yes, that’s a thing). In this week’s text, James teaches the church how to deal with times of trial and testing, and his solution is a simple one — hear the word of God and do it!*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *This is My Song (Finlandia)*

L. SMITH

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

*(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

\* **GATHERING SONG #473:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

God has given us this day for praise!

***Praise be to God for this most generous gift!***

God has given his Son to us that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

***Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!***

Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

***Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. Let us worship God!***

\* **OPENING HYMN #276:** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

***We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.***

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

**JAMES 1:17-27**

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1469

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord of mercy and abundant love, we have gathered here this day to hear your healing words of compassion and to be transformed by your love. Help us to become more faithful servants in our thoughts, words and deeds.

***God of mercy, you know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from You, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace.***

You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love.

***Forgive our stubbornness. Help us turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Even if you have transgressed and done what you know to be wrong, remember that God will heal and forgive you; send you on your way to become a person of peace, hope, love and justice.

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are healed, restored, and forgiven. Amen!***

\* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

TRADITIONAL

### \* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

***We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *In the Sanctuary*

D. PAXTON

### \* THE DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY #428:** *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

SCHUMANN

## AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

CIVILLA MARTIN

SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOIST

*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *YouTube It!*

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Be Doers of the Word* (see next page)

ELLACOMBE / CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* Please stand in body or spirit.

## Be Doers of the Word of God

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2003

*Ellacombe*

German melody, 18th cent., alt. 1868

1. Be do - ers\_ of the word of God, not simp - ly those who hear.  
2. Re - li - gion that is un - de - filed, re - li - gion that is pure  
3. O Christ, you save us by God's grace from hav - ing to o - bey.

Be ones who look in - to God's word, o - bey, and per - se - vere.  
Will reach to\_ help the or - phaned child and wel - come all the poor.  
Then freed to\_ love, we can em - brace a life\_ that seeks your way.

Be\_ quick to lis - ten, slow to\_ speak, and slow to an - ger, too.  
If\_ peo - ple come here poor - ly dressed, to judge them is a sin.  
May we be do - ers of the word; may faith shine through our deeds;

Put wrath a - side; in - stead, be meek and let\_ God work in you.  
The rich aren't bet - ter than the rest; God wel - comes poor ones in.  
And as we\_ seek to trust in God, may eth - ics fol - low creeds.



# Our Faith Community @ Work

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a guest we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have any

questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041. You can find us online through our website at [www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

***“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’”*** (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

**For our children:** Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

**Audio and Visual Assistance:** A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

**Operating our audio and video systems** this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

**Audio Recordings** of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- Carolyn Winfrey Gillette hymns ([carolynshymns.com](http://carolynshymns.com))
- Ministry Matters website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- Homiletics Online website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

Make your plans to join us **next Sunday following worship**, for a delicious **Spaghetti Luncheon**, prepared by and sponsored by our youth as a fund-raising project for youth activities throughout the year, but especially the Montreat Youth Conference. Your donations will be appreciated!

Mark your calendars for a delicious **Fifth Sunday Breakfast on September 30<sup>th</sup>**!

## **The Story Behind *His Eyes is on the Sparrow*:**

Civilla Martin was born in Nova Scotia in 1866. Her husband was an evangelist who traveled all over the United States. She accompanied him and they worked together on most of the musical arrangements that were sung.

In 1904 Civilla was visiting an ill, bedridden friend. Although discouraged and sick, her friend remembered that God, her Heavenly Father, was watching over each little sparrow and would certainly watch after her. Matthew 10:29-31: *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

Mrs. Martin was a poet and thought this would be a perfect idea for a poem. She jotted down the idea and by the end of the day, had completed "*His Eye is On the Sparrow*".

The entire poem was sent to a well-known composer of that day, Charles Gabriel. His lovely music has carried it all around the world in small churches and great crusades. Ethel Waters is remembered for her great rendition of this song, when she sang and gave her testimony at many Billy Graham Crusades.

*Used with permission from "His Eye is On The Sparrow" @Christianity.com*

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to "**check in**" on Facebook, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

If you haven't gotten your picture made, please plan to do so this morning following worship. Salina Russell will be taking photos just outside the office entrance (weather permitting), to be used as we update our church directory.

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Shirley Lane	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Levi Byrd	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Betty Boggs	Alex Thomas
Katherine Turner	Glenn Thompson	Susie Hunley
Joan Richardson	Katherine Bayliff	Bill Abplanalp

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

**Fellowship Class** (Fellowship Classroom – by ramp door)

This class is using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum and lives up to the class name in all aspects of their life here at Bethany.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**Children** (Upstairs – the really, really green room!)

This class for younger children is using our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum in introducing our children to the faith.

**Youth** (Upstairs, across from the choir room)

Using a variety of creative curricula, this class explores topics that relate to faith and adolescence.

Our new Fall Bible Study, ***Disciple Fast Track: Into the Word, Into the World***, begins **this Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00** here at the church. It's not too late to sign up! You may do so by filling out a registration form available in the church office, or filling out the form on our website.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for September are **Sandy Cook** and **Ron Osborne**.

***Did you know . . . that the cost of maintaining our buildings (main buildings, rec building, and manse) for one week is \$288.94?***

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Directory pictures made before and after church
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study Session 1

Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 – Spaghetti Lunch

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27215

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

336.227.4041

### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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