



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

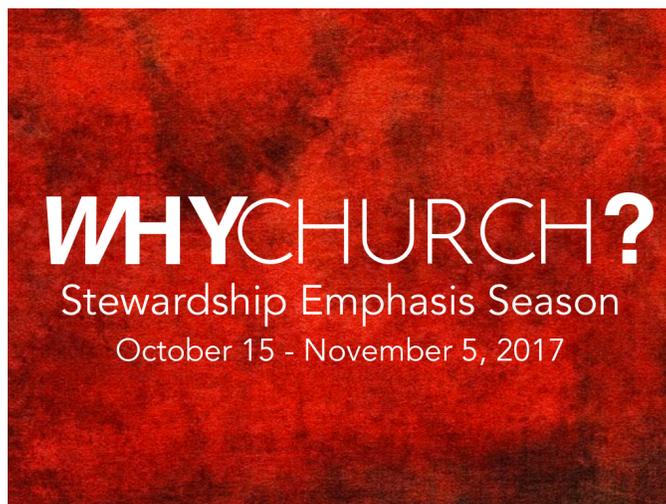
Graham, North Carolina

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

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

October 15, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*“In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.”*

Luke 15:7 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don’t hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It’s not about perfect music. It’s not about the perfect prayer. It’s about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *I Know Where I’m Going*

R. HUGHES

### 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:** *God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN / JOHN BELL

# God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The foolish say, "there is no God."

***We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.***

The scoffers of our age ask, "why do you seek after God?"

***We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.***

The hopeless around us think, "no one cares about me."

***We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.***

## \* HYMN OF PRAISE: *We Are A New Creation*

LANCASHIRE

*We are a new creation of Christ, the living Word.*

*Our songs of jubilation shall everywhere be heard.*

*New life blooms fresh and glorious for those who heed the call  
Of Christ, who reigns victorious o'er sin and death and all.*

*We are a new creation of God for this new day.*

*As partners let us follow the life, the truth, the way.*

*Christ bids us work together as colleagues, old and young,  
As women, men, and nations, God's folk of every tongue.*

*We are a new creation for service here on earth.*

*We live our faith in action to tell our Savior's worth.*

*Let love and justice blending now show for all to see  
God's grace is never ending, it reaches you and me.*

*We are a new creation by God's own gracious hand,  
Old burdens cast behind us, a daring future planned.*

*In ministry and mission, united let us live,*

*In Christ a shining vision to God's wide world to give.*

- FROM A SINGING FAITH. WORDS © 1981 JANE PARKER HUBER. USED BY PERMISSION.

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When we are short-sighted and think we can't see you, you show us a mother cradling her sick child. When we are anxious, certain you don't care about us, you are confident enough to trust us with your grace. When we are cynical, sure that nothing matters, you are optimistic enough to become one of us. God, you are our Hope.

***You sweep the streets of the world, to uncover the people we consider to be trash. You shine your grace into sin's shadows to find us when we have lost our way. You would leave us to go find the sister we left behind. Jesus, you are our Joy.***

When we walk the dusty desert of desolation, you refresh us with showers of grace. When our lives lie in ruined rubble, you come and build a foundation for us out of love and faith. Spirit, you are our Life.

***God in Community, Holy in One, our Hope, our Joy, our Life, hear us as we pray.***

Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we offer our prayers to God, saying,

***Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.***

How foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

## AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

***Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

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

TRADITIONAL

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

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

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

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.***

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY #170:** *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

CRIMOND

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

W. KIRKPATRICK  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### \* THE DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## 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

### MOMENT FOR MISSION

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #339:** *Be Thou My Vision* (stanza 3 only)

SLANE

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Worship Your Name*

T. GRIFFIN

*Did I tell You how it feels to know You love me?  
Did I tell You how I thank You for Your grace?  
Did I take the time to tell You thank You Jesus?  
Did I take the time to lift Your name in praise?  
If I had just one more chance to tell You something,  
I'd tell You how I've come to love You more.  
But just in case I didn't stop to tell You,  
You're the One I worship and adore.  
When I cried out You were there to give me guidance.  
When I stumbled You were there to hold my hand.  
Though I didn't recognize You were beside me.  
You continued to stick by through thick and thin.  
Sometimes I forgot to thank You for the blessings  
You showered on me each and everyday.  
My eyes to see, my ears to hear, my hands to give You praise;  
The only One I worship and adore.  
I worship Your name in the beauty of Your holiness and all Your majesty.  
I worship Your name. I will worship You in humble adoration to the king.  
I worship Your name. In humble adoration we lift Your name in praise.  
Humble adoration to the king.*

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Why Church? Reason One: Community***  
Text: Luke 15:1-10

REV. JOHNSON  
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1271

# LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

\* **CLOSING HYMN #343:** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Promenade*

G. YOUNG

\* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

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## ***Our Faith Community @ Work***

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

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor 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).

**Operating our audio and video systems** this morning is **Brandon Troxler**. 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:

- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

Beginning today, we embark on our four week **Stewardship Emphasis Season**. The focus of these four Sundays is designed to mirror the four ministry areas at Bethany, and will try to answer the question, "Why Church?" Here are the themes for each Sunday:

- Today: *Why Church? Reason One: Community (Worship)*
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>: *Why Church? Reason Two: Real People (Serve)*
- October 29<sup>th</sup>: *Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors (Teach)*
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – Stewardship Dedication Sunday: *Why Church? Reason Four: Money Matters (Support)*

Two weeks from today, **October 29<sup>th</sup>** is time for another **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ Bethany** celebration! This will include a delicious **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am**. Our worship that morning will be a little more casual, with lots of music, and will also include the Lord's Supper, a baptism, and welcoming of new members! Mark your calendars and join us for the joyous occasion. Anyone wishing to help prepare breakfast, please see **Ron Kimrey** or **Bobby Peele**.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**, for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee regarding election of elders for the class of 2020, and to act on a recommendation of the Session regarding sale of the rental property across Highway 87.

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.

**To the parents of young children:** Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don’t feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God’s house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

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
Layla Benoklen	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	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: [www.salempresbytery.org](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Calvary Presbyterian, Statesville; First Presbyterian, Reidsville; Franklin Presbyterian, Salisbury.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

**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.

**Seeker’s Class** (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the Wired Word curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

**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.

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

Elders of the Month for October are **Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell.**

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Stewardship Emphasis Season - I
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – “What is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup>-Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- Choir away on retreat

Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>:

- Stewardship Emphasis Season - II
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

### Session

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

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

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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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