



John's Journal

One of the privileges of serving as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the opportunity to serve the larger church. I have been blessed over the years to have been associated with APCE (Association of

Presbyterian Church Educators) in many different roles, including president, and I have served Salem Presbytery on a few different committees, currently serving as Co-Moderator of the East Neighborhood Commission on Ministry (COM). I was also privileged to serve as a commissioner to the 220th General Assembly in Pittsburgh in 2012.

After serving as a commissioner to GA, I saw even clearer first-hand how our connectional church works, and how gratifying it can be to serve the larger church - while still maintaining focus and energy on my call at the local level.

As the business of the General Assembly moves out into action on the local level, committees are formed (in the great Presbyterian fashion!) to address issues that have been raised at previous assemblies. There is an online application process where anyone can apply to serve on one of these committees.

With my work with APCE coming to an end in 2016, I felt the need, and had the time, to consider how I now might serve my church in this unique way.

I was surprised and humbled recently when I got an email informing me that the co-moderators of the General Assembly had appointed me to serve on the **Special Committee to Study the Reformed Perspective of Christian Education in the 21st Century!** Wow! What a mouthful! Being a church that loves acronyms, I'm suggesting we just call it the SCTSTRPOCEIT21C!!

This committee was formed at the General Assembly in 2016, and we are charged to report to the upcoming assembly meeting in 2018.

There are nine people serving on the committee from all over the United States, and there are also two serving from the staff of the PCUSA. We have had one video-conference meeting, with several more this summer scheduled, and then a face-to-face meeting in the fall. Our agenda is full as you can see in these guidelines that were

put before us:

The work of the committee is to include:

- assessing the historic roles of Christian education and certified Christian educators
- examining the current state of Christian education not only in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but also ecumenically, while exploring means by which to lift up and strengthen the educational ministries of congregations and councils of the church
- investigating how persons engaged in educational ministry, paid and volunteer, can offer themselves as resources to the denomination
- studying current trends in employment of Christian educators within the congregations of the PCUSA
- partnering with racial ethnic caucuses and gatherings of small membership congregations to explore how resources and certification in the PCUSA can be reflective of the diversity in the church; and
- exploring means of creating awareness and increasing value in the field of Christian education while helping the entire church think critically and faithfully about the necessity for Christian education in our ever-evolving reality.

Whew!! The tasks laid out for the committee are all-encompassing as you can see. But I look forward to working with these good folks in considering how to lift up the ministry of Christian education - which is at the heart of my many years of ministry - and to see how the church can evolve in this ministry in the 21st century. I covet your prayers as our work continues.

Please be assured that this new endeavor will not in any way impinge on my work here at Bethany. You are my first priority, and always will be. But part of my call as a Presbyterian pastor, is to serve the larger church, and I am excited about this opportunity.

Grace & Peace,

John



Come Visit our New Historical Room

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, and as a way to make our historical artifacts and information more accessible, the Session has approved the plan to make the old Men's Bible Class room (next to the parlor) be designated as the **Bethany Historical Room**. All of the items that were previously in the back of the Young at Heart classroom have been moved to this new location, and are in the process of being organized for display.

As we highlight our history it is very appropriate that we have a place that will be dedicated - not only as a place for what we already have, but also a location for future items of historical significance to be placed.

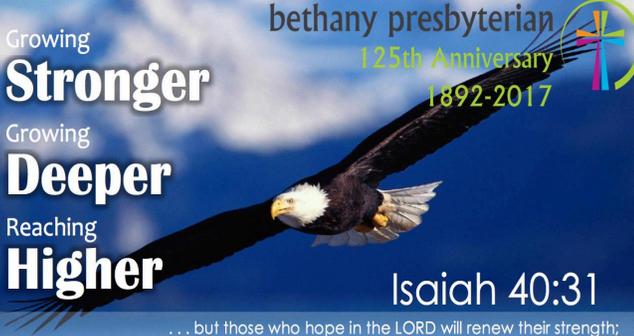
Anyone who has anything pertaining to the history of Bethany, including pictures, that would like to donate or loan for display, please contact Joy at the church. And take a moment at your leisure to check out the items that will be on display.

Congratulations to our graduate
Morgan Troxler
Graduating from
Jordan-Matthews High School
June 10, 2017



Growing
Stronger
 Growing
Deeper
 Reaching
Higher

bethany presbyterian
 125th Anniversary
 1892-2017



Isaiah 40:31
 ... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength;
 they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
 they will walk and not be weary.

May 29, 1892 was perhaps just another ordinary day in Graham, North Carolina, but it was anything but ordinary for the folks just south of Graham as that was the day that Bethany Presbyterian Church was organized and chartered. As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of this event, we rejoice in remembering our wonderful kickoff celebration in January, and the fabulous day on May 28th as we reunited with former pastor Rev. Norman Whitney, who came and preached on this day closest to the actual anniversary date.

But the celebrations don't end here! See below for what is to come:

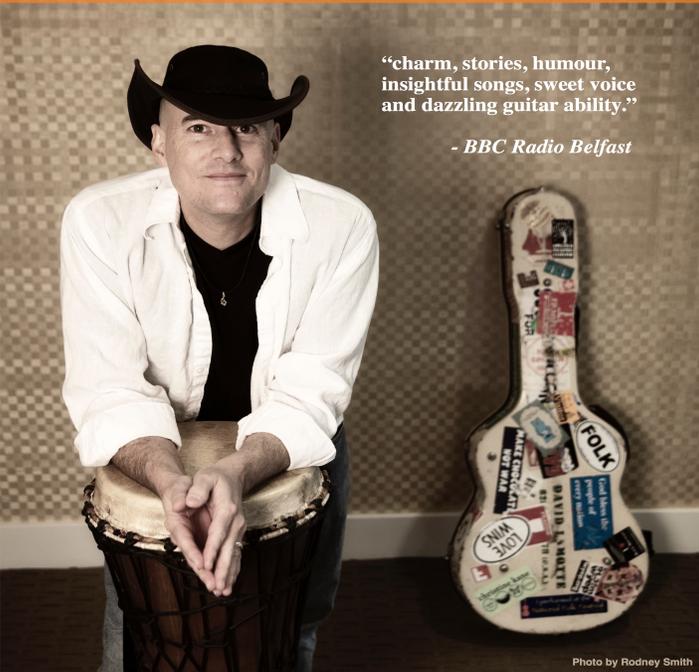
Saturday, September 28, 2017

- Concert by singer/songwriter/author **David LaMotte**

Sunday, September 24, 2017

- **Reaching Higher**
- Culmination of 125th Anniversary Celebration
- Welcoming PCUSA Stated Clerk **J. Herbert Nelson** as guest preacher and **David LaMotte** as guest musician
- 125th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon following worship

David LaMotte



"charm, stories, humour,
 insightful songs, sweet voice
 and dazzling guitar ability."
 - BBC Radio Belfast

Photo by Rodney Smith

In concert / Bethany Presbyterian Church
Saturday, September 23rd - 7:00 pm
Tickets on sale now!
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-lamotte-in-concert-tickets-32860578876>
www.davidlamotte.com



NEW BOILER UPDATE



Many thanks to those who have so generously donated to the new boiler, raising our total to date of **\$8,215.00**. In addition to those listed in the May newsletter, our appreciation goes to these who have donated:

Jerry Perdue
Sylvia Hayes
Randy Cousins
Mike & Nancy Sutton
Bethany Men of the Church

The boiler is in, has been inspected, tested, and is ready for next winter! Thanks goes also to **Bobby Peele and Ron Kimrey** for their leadership in getting this done!

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more

Covered-Dish Dinner & Program ***"Computers and Social Media 101: Navigating the Net for Novices"*** **June 11th - 6:00 - Fellowship Hall**



John will lead us in a fun and informative program covering these topics:

- Basic computer knowledge (word processing, email, etc.)
- How to stay safe on the internet (privacy guidelines, etc.)
- Navigating and getting the most out of Facebook
- Introduction to Twitter

Bring your laptop or tablet and come join the fun! Even if you don't use a computer, this will be informative, fun, entertaining, and enlightening. **Sponsored by the SUPPORT Ministry Team.**



June 4th / Day of Pentecost / Communion:
 Acts 2:1-21
When the Church Fails to Launch

June 11th:
 Matthew 28:16-20
Not Made to Sit

June 18th:
 TBA
TBA - John away, guest preacher

June 25th:
 Romans 6:1b-11
Age of Resurrection



**Check out the daily
 devotions online at**

www.365.org

**Also posted daily to
 Bethany's Facebook
 page.**



There are three ways to listen to audio of our Sunday sermons:

On our website: www.bethanypreschurch.org

On our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

Or by going to: www.buzzsprout.com/9198

Worship attendance figures for May:

May 7 - 53

May 14 - 62

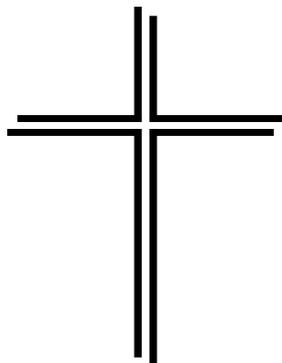
May 21 - 53

May 28 - 94



July - Ephesians

August - Revelation



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Circle #4 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John away 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John away 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Circle #1 7:00 PM Circle #3 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salem Presbytery Meeting 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Men of the Church 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125th Anniversary Celebration 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125th Anniversary... Presbyterian Church Memorial Day 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

Your Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt

Elders:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Sherrie Moore

Ron Osborne (Treasurer)

Glenn Patterson

Jean Payne

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Rick Purcell (Clerk of Session)



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on May 9th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Rick Purcell
- Continued discussion and book study of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Received a positive financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Received John's suggestion for Stewardship Theme: *Why Church?* - October 15-November 5, 2017 / Celebration Luncheon on November 12th
- Heard an update on Buildings and Grounds issues from Ron Kimrey
- Called for a Congregational Meeting on June 11th for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee
- Heard an update on plans for the 125th Anniversary Celebration on May 28th
- Heard from Jean Payne on ongoing mission projects
- Received report from Brandon Troxler on successful Easter Egg Hunt / tentative plans for VBS
- Elected A. J. Campbell as commissioner to meeting of Salem Presbytery
- Heard staff report from Chris Bagley / including successful Easter presentation
- Heard staff report from John

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017 - 7 PM
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE
A. J. CAMPBELL AND JEAN PAYNE**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL
AUGUST 11-12, 2017
MORE DETAILS TO COME**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

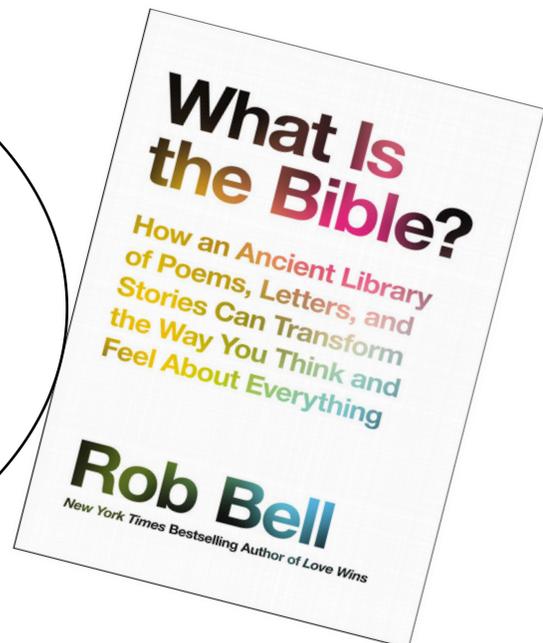
**Sunday, June 11th - following worship
for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee**



**ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE
COME BY CHURCH OFFICE
LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE!!
CHILD AND ADULT SIZES
\$20.00 EACH (2 FOR \$35.00)
CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!**



New Book Study this fall
Beginning in September
More details and info
coming soon!





Financial Reports

Report through end of APRIL	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$61,155.38
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$59,546.06
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,609.32

"LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY HOW MUCH YOU OWN."

LUKE 12:15, NLT



Why CHURCH?

STEWARDSHIP 2017

OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 12



online GIVING

easy. fast. effective.

www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving



- **Sunday School for Youth and Children** / Meets on the second floor of the Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pew (nearest the choir loft) / there are activities provided

- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday morning.
- Watch your calendar and inbox for special activities for our young people throughout the year.

find your place
Adult Ministry

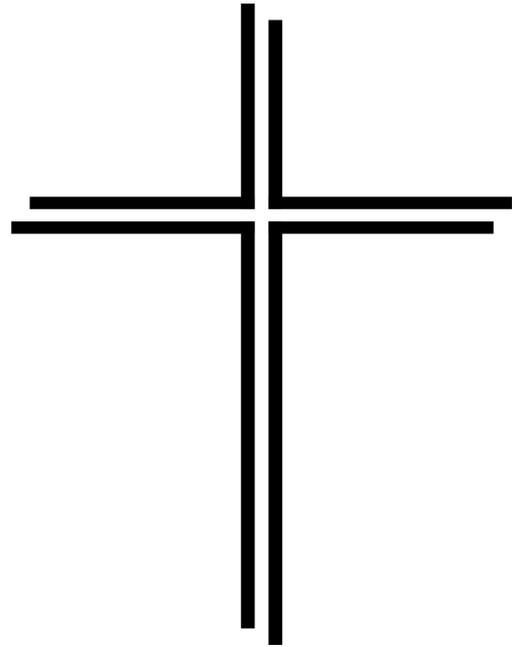


Christian Education Opportunities

The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's Present Word Curriculum

The Young @ Heart Class - meets across from the church office / currently using the Uniform Lesson Series

The Seeker's Class - meets in the church office / currently using The Wired Word curriculum





**Bethany
Presbyterian
Women**

Here's what's happening with our circles:

Circle #1: met on Monday, May 8th, which was the final meeting until September.

Circle #3: will not meet again through the summer, until September

Circle #4: met at the Village Grill for the final gathering of the year until September. Those attending were Katherine Bayliff, Sylvia Hayes, Judy Holmes, Pat Kennedy, Joyce Mize, Christel Schappacher, and Barbara Sinclair. Items of discussion were:

- donation of \$100 towards 125th Anniversary Celebration
- appointment of Barbara Sinclair as Circle Leader with Katherine Bayliff as back up.
- agreement to not meet during the summer, but to gather on the second Monday of September (since the first is Labor Day) at Sylvia Hayes' house.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Sylvia & Gerald Donley	June 14
Tracey & Brandon Troxler	June 15
Katherine & Foy Bayliff	June 16

Happy Birthday to:

Kasey Snyder	June 1
Jim Petit	June 6
Tracey Troxler	June 7
Seth Smith	June 8
Byron Bullis	June 9
Judy Holmes	June 12
Kim Mitchell-Ayers	June 22



Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	Frances Nolan	Shannon Russell
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Teresa Wilborn	Rachel Poteat
Joey Leake	Layla Benoklen	Mary Moore	Christy Lutterloh
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Jeremy Harden	Harold Baldwin
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Eleanor Thompson	Stewart Dillard
Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels	Duffy Strigo	Gloria Carden Woods
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Ben Johnson	Pete Campbell
Infant Sandie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor	Faye Campbell	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
	John and Ann Sutton	Polly & Dick Wilson	



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bethany presbyterian

love learn serve

