

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve

bethany press



VOLUME VI NO. 6

JUNE 2018

John's Journal

One of the advantages of summer is that relaxed schedules provide more of an opportunity to venture from preaching from the lectionary, and explore some sermon series ideas. Such will be the case this

summer as I offer two different sermon series.

I'm very excited about the first one, which will begin on June 3rd. As you can see on Page 2, the title of the series is "The Answer to Bad Religion Isn't No Religion." Here is some information from the series guide:

"The increasing cultural skepticism surrounding Christianity, with its reputation for closed-mindedness and judgment, and the subsequent abandonment of religion by many people presents a great opportunity for mainline congregations to reach out to unchurched and dechurched people in their communities with a grace-filled, service-oriented, open-minded faith. Many non-Christians today identify not as atheist or agnostic but as simply 'unaffiliated,' indicating their religion as 'none.' Evangelism in this cultural climate is not so much about explaining beliefs to convince people intellectually but about demonstrating a faith that matters, showing people who are content without religion what 'good religion' is all about.

To use commercial terms, the mainline 'brand' of Christianity has not been near so well marketed as the more fundamentalist strain, for which many people not have little use or tolerance. This sermon series will help your congregation present its identity and values to the community and help church members better articulate their Christian faith in a positive, passionate way."

So, perhaps you can see why this series intrigued me when I came across it and read more about it. The six themes will offer us all some guidance in how to maneuver in the secular world, and will help us to realize that frustrations with religion are not uncommon, but the answer to those frustrations is not to walk away from religion.

The summer also affords us time to renew and refresh, as vacation time is upon us. As I have done almost every summer, I will utilize part of my continuing education time attending the conference on Worship and Music at

Montreat the last week of June. Montreat is such a special place for me and I look forward to this time to learn and explore and worship.

As I write this article, I am two days away from my long-awaited surgery on my knee. I am excited about the prospect of healing and being more mobile, but I know that the summer will be different. I will be in a immobilizer brace for about three weeks, which won't allow any movement of the knee. At some point, I will progress to an adjustable brace that, over time will give me more and more movement. I will also engage in physical therapy at some point - probably lasting a couple of months.

I am hoping that I will be able to put weight on the leg after a few days. A lot depends on the extensiveness of the surgery, and also what kind of anesthesia they give me. Hopefully, I won't have to depend on crutches for very long.

My plan is to only miss one Sunday - May 27th - and then return to preach on June 3rd. I will assume that for awhile I will preach from the floor and use a stool to prop myself up!

I know that this is not going to be an easy process, but I am confident in the skills of the surgeon that he will do the necessary repairs and that I will be better off in the long run than where I am now. I do appreciate all your kind words and best wishes. They have been most helpful.

I know that summer schedules with trips and vacations and weekend plans makes church attendance erratic. Please be aware that even though attendance may be erratic, church expenses continue. Please be intentional about keeping your pledges up-to-date so that the mission and ministry of Bethany can continue as normal. Your generosity is appreciated.

So, enjoy your summer. I'm going to enjoy mine, though it might be a bit different than usual. Times of rest are necessary, as God even rested on the seventh day. The warm summer sun reminds us of the warmth of God's love that embraces us always.

John

THE ANSWER TO

BAD RELIGION

IS NOT

NO RELIGION

A GUIDE TO

GOOD RELIGION FOR SEEKERS,

SKEPTICS, AND BELIEVERS

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Mark your calendars NOW for this unique Summer Sermon Series: ***The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion***. Using the resource by author Martin Thielen as a guide, John will lead us on this six-week journey, with the following themes:

June 3rd: What To Do With No Religion

June 10th: The Answer to Judgment is Love

June 17th: The Answer to Negativity is Hope

June 24th: The Answer to Arrogance is Openness

July 8th: The Answer to Division is Community

July 15th: The Answer to Passivity is Passion



GAME OF STONES

OLD WORDS,
NEW PERSPECTIVES

Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments
August 2018



Sunday, June 10th - 6:30 pm



Join us on the evening of Sunday, June 10th in the Fellowship Hall for great fellowship, an amazingly entertaining and thought-provoking film, containing some fabulous gospel music, and a great time with your Bethany family. There will be popcorn and drinks to enjoy during the movie. We are recommending that you bring your own lawn chairs to sit in, as the chairs in the fellowship hall were not made for sitting and watching a movie! Bring a friend!





A Walk With Daylilies

Saturday, June 9th
1-5 pm

Home of Bill & Linda Abplanalp
1030 Glenview Ln., Burlington

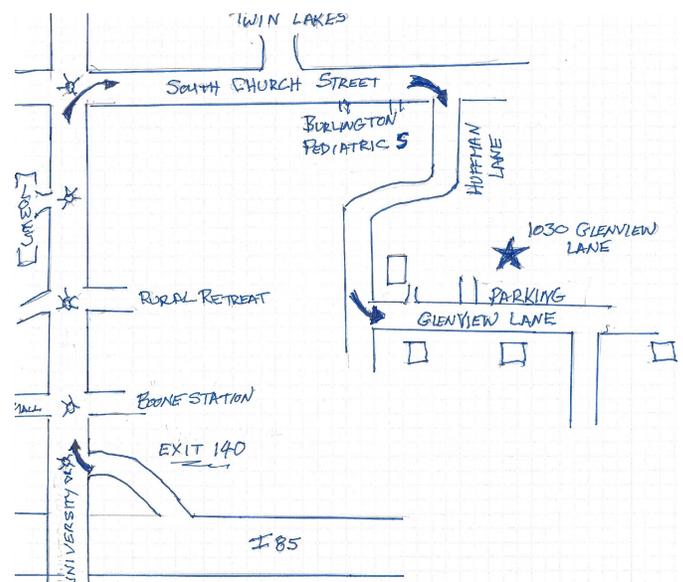
New members Bill and Linda Abplanalp would like to invite the Bethany congregation to an afternoon garden party, "A Walk with Daylilies" at their home, 1030 Glenview Lane, Burlington, on Saturday, June 9th between 1:00 and 5:00 pm.

Linda is a national daylily judge and has an extensive collection in the garden. Bill and Linda invite Bethany to come, park on the lawn, and enjoy the garden and light refreshments under the shade trees!

Directions:

- from I-85/40 take exit 140. Go north on University Drive about 1 miles to South Church St.
- Turn right on South Church St. Go about 100 yards to Huffman Ln. (Huffman Lane is a one lane road just past the Pediatric Clinic on the right.)
- Turn right onto Huffman Lane
- Turn left onto Glenview Lane
- Second driveway on the left, 1030 Glenview Ln.

Park on the lawn and come enjoy!
336.584.9236



**June 3rd:**

Luke 6:1-11

*What to Do With No Religion***June 10th:**

John 8:3-11

*The Answer to Judgment is Love***June 17th:**

1 Thessalonians 5:11-18

*The Answer to Negativity is Hope***June 24th:**

Luke 18:10-14

The Answer to Arrogance is Openness

audio sermons

listen anytime,
anywhere



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

2018 Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music



Week 1: June 17-22, 2018

Week 2: June 24-29, 2018

Sacraments and Seasons

John and Chris will be attending the 2018 Montreat Conference on Worship and Music the week of June 24-30.

Hold them in your prayers as they continue to seek the spirit's guidance in finding new, creative and authentic ways to lead us in worship each Sunday morning.

They will leave following worship on Sunday, the 24th, arriving in time for the opening worship in Montreat on Sunday evening.



Presented by
the Presbyterian Association of Musicians



Your Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt

Elders:

Chip Allen

A. J. Campbell

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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 8th. Here are some highlights:**

- Heard a devotion from Glenn Patterson
- Shared joys and concerns of the congregation
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Heard a report from Glenn Patterson regarding efforts to sell rental property
- Heard a report from John after the first workshop of the Salem Presbytery offering "Creating a Culture of Generosity"
- Were reminded of Pentecost Sunday communion on May 20th, and Hymn Sing on May 27th
- Heard a very positive report from Plant Sale
- Elected Chip Allen as commissioner to meeting of Salem Presbytery
- Heard a report from John concerning his upcoming knee surgery
- Approved request from Bill & Linda Abplanalp to host "A Walk with Daylilies" at their home on June 9th

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

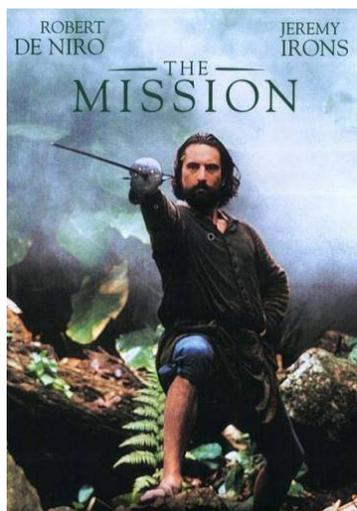
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

A. J. CAMPBELL AND JEAN PAYNE



Sunday, July 15th - 6:30

Sunday, August 19th - 6:30





On Saturday, June 19th, the 223rd Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will convene in St. Louis, Missouri. As Presbyterians, we should all have an interest in the work of this gathering. So, here's some information about the General Assembly from its website.

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly.

The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, is the ecclesiastical arm of the church. The Stated Clerk and his staff work to ensure that the Presbyterian Church maintains itself as a church. The Office of the General Assembly carries out all constitutional, and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly. Mission programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly, and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly.

Overtures from synods and presbyteries are the second source of General Assembly business. These governing bodies use Overtures to bring recommendations and matters of concern before the whole church.

Commissioners Resolutions are a third source of General Assembly business. As a commissioner one is entitled to sign two resolutions which will come before the whole assembly.

The meeting begins with an orientation on Saturday afternoon and that evening the plenary, or whole General Assembly, meets together to elect a Moderator from among the commissioners assembled.

The Moderator presides over the plenary meetings for the rest of the week.

Once a Moderator is elected, the assembly breaks up into assembly committees to consider particular kinds of business. Each committee is responsible for considering a number of items, and reporting back to the General Assembly on completed actions or their recommendations.

The combined insights of all those on assembly committees become the recommendations to the whole assembly. If they are approved, they guide the church in the years to come.



REPORT THROUGH END OF APRIL

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$51,745.47
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$53,776.64
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$2,031.17

Ways to support Bethany Presbyterian Church

1. Place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday.
2. Mail in check to church office.
3. Use your bank's online bill pay to send a payment to the church.
4. Setup an Electronic Funds Transfer from your savings or checking account on our website or scan the QR code below.
5. Use your debit/credit card on our website or scan the QR code below.
6. Make a gift of stock or other appreciated securities. Contact the church office for more information.
7. Remember the church in your will and your estate plans.



GENEROSITY: GIVING • GOING • GROWING

In an effort to assist churches in their stewardship programs, which will then enhance the ministry and mission of its churches, Salem Presbytery is embarking on a two-year program called ***Creating a Culture of Generosity***. Here is some information from the presbytery website:

How Do We Build a Culture of Generosity in our Church?

There is no cookie-cutter approach to designing a stewardship plan - every church is unique.

Creating a Culture of Generosity is an 18-month learning community for the congregations of Salem Presbytery. Four workshops will address topics directly related to raising money for ministry, as well as to deeper on the interrelated dynamics of faith, spirituality, and giving.

Congregational teams will craft short- and long-term action plans to implement between workshops. An investment in stewardship today will reap rewards many tiems over in the years to come.

John attended the first workshop in May. The rest of the team (Glenn Patterson, Jean Payne, Rick & Nancy Purcell) will attend a catch-up session via videoconference on June 2nd. The team has met once to begin discussion about future plans for Bethany.





- **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

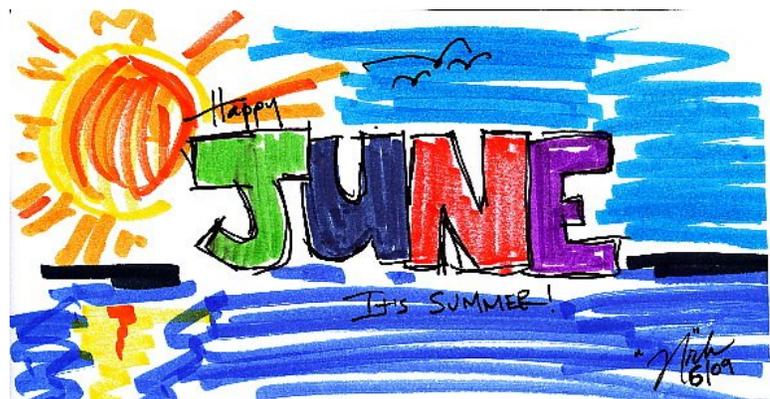
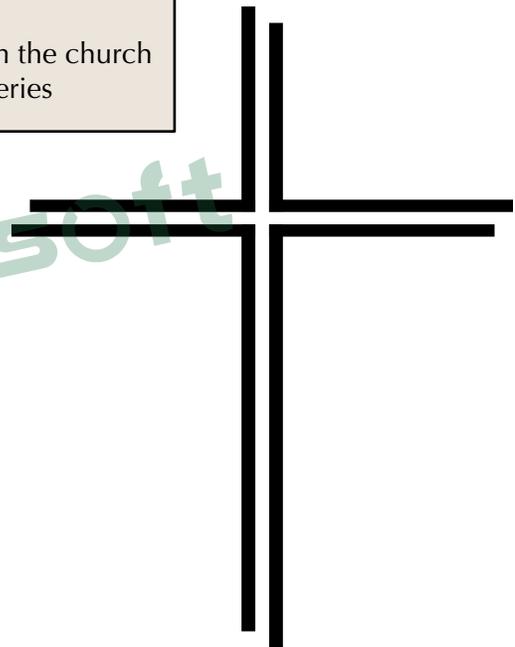
Adult Ministry



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



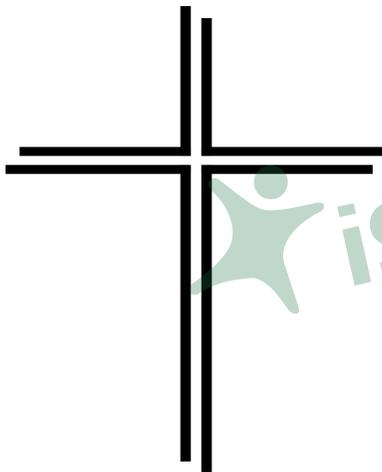
June Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

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

Happy Birthday to:

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



Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette	Jack Cook	Shannon Russell
Faye Campbell	Polly and Dick Wilson	Shelvia Russell
Frances Nolan	Teresa Wilborn	Mary Moore
Layla Benoklen	Tiffany Tauchren	Barbara Cousins
Ida Whitney	Jean Berry	Pat Kennedy
Rachel Poteat	Christy Lutterloh	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Jeremy Harden	Eleanor Thompson	Pete Campbell
Anne McDaniels	Nancy Sutton	Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton	Norma Proctor	Levi Byrd
Stewart Dillard	John and Ann Sutton	Ruth Younts
Ben Johnson	Peter Slater	Diane Bullis
Diane Miller	Joey Leake	Susie Hunley



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