



John's Journal

Some random thoughts as we near the mid-summer mark (calendar-wise):

- I have been so pleased with the response to our

Feasting on the Word series that we began at on the first Sunday in June. We have had really good discussions during the Sunday school hour, as we have dug a little deeper into the text from which I will be preaching that morning. It has been gratifying to see how the discussions can inform my preaching, and hopefully vice versa as well.

- I was also thrilled at the response to our first *The Grill and the Gospel* event on June 9th. The food was great, but even better was our discussion. We are looking at Adam Hamilton's book and study, *"Why? Making Sense of God's Will."* We will continue this series on July 7th and August 11th, so please join us. If you would like a copy of the book that we are studying, there are a few copies in the office, or they can be ordered on Amazon (about \$10.00).
- My summer plans were altered a bit with Debbie having to undergo surgery on June 17th. She had some arthritis in her right thumb that was bothering her quite a bit, so she had surgery to take care of that. As I am writing this, we just got back from her first post-surgery doctor's visit, that went very well. The stitches are out, and she is now in a removable brace, which will help out considerably as she continues to recover. She will begin physical therapy the first week of July. Our planned week in Montreat the last week of June was altered somewhat due to her recovery. I was able to go up on Sunday, the 23rd and experience the opening worship service of the Worship and Music Conference, which was amazing as usual. We will return to Montreat at the end of the week, and take in a worship service and a couple of concerts.
- Following Montreat, I will take a few days off as we visit some friends in the mountains.

- I am grateful to my dear friend Bryan McFarland, who is filling our pulpit on June 30th. This is a bittersweet day for Bryan, as this will be his last official day as Associate Presbyterian for Salem Presbytery. Our prayers are certainly with Bryan as he enters this new period of transition, that he will clearly hear God's call for ministry in whatever form that might take.
- One of the hats that Bryan wore for the presbytery was as Communications Coordinator. As of July 1st, I will be taking over that role on a very limited basis, and temporarily, as there will be a search for someone to fill that role permanently. These duties will in no way effect my job as your pastor. The presbytery knows where my priorities lie! My service to the larger church is important to me, and this gives me another opportunity to help out in an area of interest and where I have some skills.
- Mid-July will give Debbie and me an opportunity to take a few days off to visit our daughter Jackie in Minneapolis. We always look forward to being in that great town, and also to spend some time with her. We will leave on the 11th and return on the 16th.
- Please note the full-page spread about our upcoming Vacation Bible School. Nancy and her crew are working very hard to make sure this is a wonderful experience for our children and the children of our community. Registration can be completed either through the church office, or online through our website.
- I was truly saddened when Chris gave me the news recently that Sunday, the 7th will be Sylvester Allen's final Sunday with us. We have all been blessed with Sylvester's God-given talents, and we will truly miss his sharing of them in our worship services. Please join me in thanking Sylvester for all he has done for Bethany!
- As always, I am grateful to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,

sabbatical

rest | refresh | refocus

The last several newsletters have given you a little introduction to the advance planning that is continuing as I prepare for my anticipated three-month sabbatical, May-July of 2020. The Sabbatical Support Group (Helen Brown, Ron Kimrey, Sandy Russell, and Tracey Troxler) met several times over several months spanning the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. There was much work involved in getting the proposal and application for the Lilly Foundation grant. According to the instructions and information, recipients will not be notified until late August. Fingers are firmly crossed!

As a way of further keeping you informed, I will continue to share in this space the responses to one of the narrative questions that is included in the application. So, here is the next question and answer - Number 7.

7. Tell how the pastor and the congregation will communicate and share insights from the renewal program with one another after the pastor returns from the renewal leave. Please note that we do not anticipate contact between pastor and congregation during the renewal leave unless it is absolutely necessary.

A few weeks after the return - giving time to put a program together, the pastor would present a program at a family night dinner (or similar event) that would tell the story of the sabbatical in detail. This would include photographs, videos, and other forms of communication that will help share the experience with the congregation. It would also include information on how this experience fulfilled the original goal, and steps that will now be taken to continue the fulfillment of these goals.

The pastor will present a sermon series on his return, incorporating appropriate scripture to tell the story of the sabbatical experience, and to outline future goals and challenges for the congregation.

The pastor will maintain a blog during the sabbatical - sharing photos and experiences along the way. Insights from this blog will also be shared with the congregation, with the hopes that this would lead to a more in-depth study or conversation over a period of time.

Stay tuned. JWJ



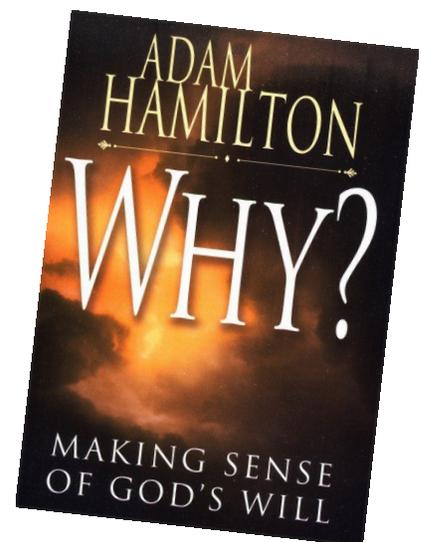
FEASTING on the WORD



Join us this summer for a unique new **Sunday School Series**. This series will use the *“Feasting on the Word”* curriculum, which follows the Revised Common Lectionary scripture passages. Each Sunday’s session will center on the text from which John will be preaching on that particular Sunday. The series will be led by John, with exceptions when he is out of town, and will meet in the classroom across from the offices. **We will gather each Sunday at 9:45 for coffee and refreshments, and will finish up by 10:30.**

The hope for this series is to provide a deeper look at the text for each Sunday, which will hopefully lead to a richer worship experience as the same text is used to build the worship service around.

So make your plans to join us as we continue in this format throughout the summer!



For our Summer Study Series this summer, we will re-visit a format we used several years ago - **The Grill & The Gospel**, continuing on **Sunday, July 7th**. This summer we are looking at another Adam Hamilton study, called **Why? Making Sense of God’s Will**. Our three sessions will look at: Why Do the Innocent Suffer?, Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?, and Why Can’t I See God’s Will For My Life? As with other Adam Hamilton series that we’ve looked at, this is a DVD based series, with discussion and sharing.

So, mark your calendars for **July 7th, and August 11th**, as we gather for great food, fantastic fellowship, and engaging discussion on the many “why” questions of life!



JULY WORSHIP THEMES

July 7th:

Psalm 30

A Shout for Joy

July 14th:

TBA

TBA - John away

July 21st:

Luke 10:38-42

Paying Attention

July 28th:

Luke 11:1-13

Teach Us to Pray



Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!
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



Summer Worship



Beginning on June 2nd, and continuing through the end of August, our worship services may look a little different. Summer brings changes to schedules, adjustment to heat, and the opportunity to try some new things.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be utilizing the *Feasting on the Word* resource for our worship - following the Revised Common Lectionary as we normally do, but including a study aspect during the Sunday school hour.

Also, you will notice that John will not be wearing a robe during the summer. He has done this before during the summer and will return to this more comfortable attire. He will continue to wear appropriate stoles for the seasons.

Another change that we are trying out for the summer will be that John will be preaching from the floor, instead of the pulpit. This gives John some flexibility in preaching, and also creates a better connection with the congregation.

We hope that these minor adjustments will enhance our worship experience for these summer months, and that we can glorify God in new and creative ways!



Saying Goodbye

We are saddened to learn that **Sunday, July 7th** will be the final Sunday for our friend **Sylvester Allen**, featured soloist in our choir. Sylvester has enhanced our worship in so many ways. We will miss his infectious smile, his humor and warmth, and his amazing tenor voice.

Sylvester will offer one more solo on the 7th. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



Montreat Youth Conference:

July 6-13

Our youth will once again be joining 1000 or so of their friends for the 2019 Montreat Youth Conference. Rick and Nancy Purcell, along with Morgan Troxler and Shelby Smith will serve as adult leaders for **Seth Smith** and **April Troxler**.

Friends of SHE

If you were in worship on June 23rd, you may have noticed that John was wearing a new stole. This stole was a gift from Debbie, and was purchased at a booth for the Friends of SHE at the APCE conference in January. (John hasn't worn the stole before now because it was too long and had to be altered. Thanks Linda Abplanalp!)

The SHE Project is a program in Pakistan to offer at risk women a safe place to exist, as well as to offer life skills. **SHE is an acronym for Struggle - Hope - Empowerment.** The Friends of SHE is the U. S. Partner of this program.

From the Friends of SHE website (www.friendsofshe.com): *What would you do if you were a victim of radical violence? A single mom with no job or prospects? If you couldn't read or write? If your home was no longer a safe place for your children and relatives turned you away?*

The SHE Project began in 2006 as a program called "Girls at Risk." When several Christian churches and homes in Sangla Hill were burned by radical Muslims, a number of women and children had no place to go. The Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan (PEB) — already known for providing Christian and Muslim children with a great education — saw these women in distress. Housing was provided at a PEB boarding house, bringing their critical needs to the attention of PEB.

Visit the website to find out more about this important program, to purchase items, or to make a donation. John will share more about this in an upcoming worship service.



July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John on Vacation Fifth Sunday @ Bethany 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montreat Youth Conference 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM The Grill and the Gospel 	<p>8</p>	<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"> 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacation Bible School 	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacation Bible School 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Shrimp-a-Roo 	<p>3</p>

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

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Ron Osborne (Treasurer)

Jean Payne

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Rick Purcell (Clerk of Session)



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on June 11th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Ron Osborne.
- Continued with our discussion of the book *Canoeing the Mountains*
- Shared in joys and concerns of the congregation
- Approved minutes from May stated meeting.
- Heard an update from Rick and Nancy about Cub Scout Pack, including first awards given out.
- Heard a treasurer's report from Ron Osborne.
- Were reminded of Shrimp-a-Roo on August 3rd.
- Were reminded of Vacation Bible School, July 20-21
- Authorized Chip to continue exploring options for a cleaning service for the church.
- John shared his schedule for the summer months.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 9TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY
TRACEY TROXLER AND A. J. CAMPBELL**



An Invitation

Bill and Linda Abplanalp would like to invite the congregation and friends to help celebrate their **55th Wedding Anniversary** with a party on **Saturday, August 10th** at the Rec Building. More information and details will follow in subsequent newsletters.

mark  your **Calendar**

VBS 2019



JULY 20 AND 21

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW THROUGH THE

CHURCH OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE.



We are so excited that Bethany has chartered **Cub Scout Pack #141!!** After several months of planning, the first meetings have taken place, and the first awards and badges were presented at a recent ceremony.

A special thanks to our leadership team of Rick Purcell, Nancy Purcell, Glenn Patterson, Zack Wagner, and Jean Payne, who are providing leadership at this time. Other volunteers are always needed, so contact Rick or Nancy if you are interested.

Scouting is so important in the development of young people, and we are thrilled that Bethany can provide a home for these children!

Mark your
calendars
Saturday, August 3rd
6:00 pm



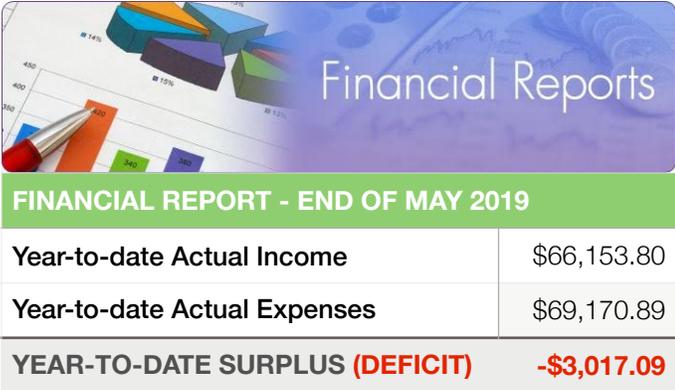
SHRIMP A ROO



Continue to keep **Salem Presbytery** in your prayers, as the proposal presented by the "Dream Team" was approved at the meeting of Salem Presbytery on February 12th.

Things are progressing with the major change being the completion of the work of presbyters **Dianna Wright, Bryan McFarland, and Alfredo Miranda**. Their work will conclude at the end of June.

We move forward in the assurance that we live in the presence of God and that God has a plan for his church.



PLEDGE REMINDER:

Summer is here! Schedules get changed around and our usual routines get amended. History shows that giving to the church usually drops off during the summer months due to these changes in routines.

The reality is that the expenses of the church do not take a break! We will have bills to pay and commitments to adhere to. So, we urge all to do what you need to do to keep your pledge up-to-date during the summer months.

As you can see from the above figures, we are doing well in keeping our income and expenses in line. Let's make sure that the next few months show the same thing! Thanks for your generosity and your gifts to the mission and ministry of Bethany.

UPDATE ON PROPERTY SALE:

As you may remember, the congregation voted last fall to approve the sale of the property across Main Street from the church, that previously was our rental property.

Things are progressing slowly but surely on this sale. There were zoning issues, and other hoops to jump through, but we are hoping that everything will be finalized by June.

If you have any questions concerning the process, you may feel free to contact Glenn Patterson, who is handling all the real estate matters concerning this property.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2019

Your Generosity Team (Glenn Patterson, Nancy Purcell, Rick Purcell, Jean Payne, and John Johnson) have met to begin plans for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 17th**, which will be the culmination of our Stewardship Season.

One focus for this year will be capital needs of the church. The Generosity Team, as well as others will be compiling a list of capital needs and will be prioritizing these needs. With anticipated income from the sale of the property across the street from the church, as well as designated funds that we have on hand, we should have funds available to tend to the physical upkeep of our property, as well as to consider upgrades and other issues.

As always, the input of the congregation is encouraged. Please contact any of the above named team to offer suggestions.

And the team covets your prayers as we look to providing a strong budget for 2020.



July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Pat & Henry Flythe	July 1
Millie & Jay Fuller	July 11
Amy & Dusty Kimrey	July 13
Brenda & Robert Sykes	July 27

Happy Birthday to:

Shelby Smith	July 3
Sylvia Hayes	July 5
Janine Osborne	July 5
Tina Patterson	July 7
Xan Wagner	July 8
Tammy Patterson	July 15
Debbie Johnson	July 17
Sylvia Donley	July 20

Children & Youth Ministries

- **Sunday school for Youth and Children** / Meets on second floor of Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pews (front rows on north side) / there are activities provided
- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday.
- Watch your calendar and inbox for special activities for our young people throughout the year.

Find your place!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Christian Education Opportunities

The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum.

Feasting on the Word (beginning June 2) - Special Sunday school series through the summer looking at the Lectionary passage for each Sunday.



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Bethany Prays



Bill Faucette
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell

Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Mike Sutton
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton

Norma Proctor
Randy Thompson
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Robert Sykes
Family of Jerry Perdue
Joy Saleeby
Frederica Beatty

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