



John's Journal

I write this just having returned from a very restful and refreshing vacation, visiting our daughter Jackie and her husband Tave in Minneapolis. Although they had just completed their move to Minneapolis only

two weeks prior, their home was inviting and welcoming to their first house guests!

I'm not much of a big city person, but Minneapolis is a wonderful place to visit, and from Jackie and Tave's viewpoint, a wonderful place to live. This visit gave me a lot to think about when it comes to being good neighbors. On Saturday of the week we were up there, we were able to take part in a block party on the block where they live - the 4700 block of Blaisdell Avenue in Minneapolis. We learned that this was the 35th year of holding this block party!

And what a wonderful time we had. The street was full of children, youth, adults of the same generation as Jackie and Tave, adults our age, and some older. Everyone brought food, folks brought chairs to sit on, and it was truly a wonderful time of fellowship. This is what a neighborhood should look like. I know that Jackie and Tave will enjoy fixing up their home and becoming a part of this wonderful neighborhood.

This summer has seen another reminder of what being a neighbor is all about, with the release of the documentary film *"Won't You Be My Neighbor"* - telling the story of Mister Rogers and his neighborhood.

This simple TV show for children originated in Pittsburgh in 1968. Its syndication brought this unique show into homes all across the country.

Fred Rogers was the host, writer, composer, and just about everything else for the show. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister (a fact that many people don't know!), and his ministry with Mr. Rogers Neighborhood was a validated ministry of Pittsburgh Presbytery. In fact, he was ordained to this ministry.

We had the pleasure of seeing the movie while we were on vacation. I came away with the feeling that this should be required viewing for every citizen of our country. His kindness, compassion, and caring for all of God's people

was so evident as this show continued. One example of his influence: in the late 60's and early 70's (and unfortunately even today), race relations were a hot button issue. There was an incident where African-American children and adults were swimming in a public pool, but were harassed to the point of people pouring bleach into the water to "cleanse" the pool.

Mr. Rogers rightly thought this was horrendous. One of the characters on his show was a black policeman. Never once mentioning racism or this incident, he dealt with it powerfully and simply. Sitting on the set he had his bare feet in a little kiddie pool, commenting on what a hot day it was and how cooling and refreshing the cool water was.

Francois, the policeman came up and Mr. Rogers invited him to join him. So, there they sat, two of God's creatures, black and white, sharing the coolness of water - together. What a powerful lesson for our children.

As I begin a new sermon series on the last Sunday of July, I will be talking more about being good neighbors. This series is on the Ten Commandments, and we are reminded that so many of them speak as to how we should treat our neighbors. You can read more details about the topics of this new series on Page 2.

So, it was a fabulous vacation, but it is also always good to get home. I'll have one more Sunday off on August 12th (see the info about Youth Sunday on Page 5) as I participate with some friends in my annual trek to see the Atlanta Braves play. And then I'll be around for awhile.

I appreciate the opportunity to get away and renew and refresh. It gives me the rest I need away from work, and makes me better able to do my job to the best of my ability.

I hope each of you have had opportunities as well to get away with family and friends. After all, isn't that what summer is supposed to be about! But alas, it's August, and another summer is about to be gone. But we rejoice in the life we have as God's people, and the life we share here at Bethany!

John

GAME OF STONES

OLD WORDS, NEW PERSPECTIVES

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Following our interesting and intriguing early summer sermon series on good religion vs. bad religion, we end the summer season with a fascinating series on the Ten Commandments. As noted above, the title is: **Game of Stones: Old Words, New Perspectives**. Here's the schedule for the series:

Week 1 - July 29th: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 - *"Nineteen Comes Before Twenty"*

Week 2 - August 5th: Exodus 20:3-11 - *"The First Table - Tuned Into God"*

Week 3 - August 19th: Exodus 20:12-16 - *"The Second Table - Turned Toward the Neighbor"*

Week 4 - August 26th: Exodus 20:17 - *"The Desires of the Heart: Do Not Covet"*





Sunday, August 19th - 6:30

We're changing things up a bit for our final Summer Movie Series movie night. Join us on Sunday, August 19th at 6:30 as we watch the critically acclaimed "Inside Out." Here's some info about the movie:

Riley (Kaitlyn Dias) is a happy, hockey-loving 11-year-old Midwestern girl, but her world turns upside-down when she and her parents move to San Francisco. Riley's emotions -- led by Joy (Amy Poehler) -- try to guide her through this difficult, life-changing event. However, the stress of the move brings Sadness (Phyllis Smith) to the forefront. When Joy and Sadness are inadvertently swept into the far reaches of Riley's mind, the only emotions left in Headquarters are Anger, Fear and Disgust.

Remember to bring a lawn or beach chair to sit in. As usual, candy, popcorn, and drinks will be provided. Bring a friend and come join the fun!





It's hard to believe that the beginning of a new school year is right around the corner. All of our school-age children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 26th for a special blessing as the new year begins! Let's start the new school year off on the right foot!



You may have seen notices in the bulletin about a new church directory that we are working on. With our database, we are able to produce a fairly high quality directory in house, not having to rely on outside companies which always includes high pressure sales pitches.

There's a good chance that you may want to update your picture! Fortunately we have a church member who is a great photographer, and has volunteered her time to help out. Salina Russell has offered to take pictures either before or after church on dates to be announced. Depending on her schedule, these will probably be near the end of August. Once all the pictures are taken, Joy will put the directory together and have them available for you!

So, stay tuned for announcements concerning this new project to better connect our family, and to update our records.



August 5th:

Exodus 20:3-11

The First Table - Tuned Into God

August 12th:

TBA

TBA

August 19th:

Exodus 20:12-16

The Second Table - Turned Toward the Neighbor

August 26th:

Exodus 20:17

The Desires of the Heart: Do Not Covet

audio sermons
listen anytime,
anywhere

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

On our website: www.bethanypreschur.ch.org

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

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

Youth Sunday

Sunday, August 12th

Join our young people and their adult leaders as they lead us in a meaningful and joyful worship experience on Sunday, August 12th. These young members of our church have a lot to say, and they want to share some of their experiences with you within a worship format.

So, mark your calendars and join us on the 12th!



August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / Game of Stones Sermon Series I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Generosity Team 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / Game of Stones Sermon Series II 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Away Youth Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory Pictures (Tentative) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / Game of Stones Sermon Series III 6:30 PM Summer Movie Series 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory Pictures (Tentative) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / Game of Stones Sermon Series IV 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			

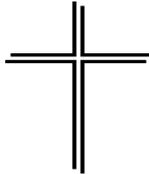
Your Church Staff:

*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)



Coming up on the Session's calendar:

- Generosity Team (Stewardship Committee) continues to meet and make plans for fall stewardship campaign.
- Nominating Committee is identified and elected at a congregational meeting.
- Nominating Committee receives nominations for election of Elders
- Worship Team makes plans for Advent season.
- Session participates in Officer Training
- Session receives further information about sale of property and presents to congregation for final approval.
- Session continues to hold each member of the congregation in prayer each month, and covets the prayers of the congregation for the Session's work.

A REMINDER THAT ALL MEETINGS OF THE SESSION ARE OPEN TO ANY MEMBER, OTHER THAN TIMES WHEN DEALING WITH PERSONNEL ISSUES. THE SESSION MEETS EACH MONTH ON THE SECOND TUESDAY.



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on July 10th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Chip Allen
- Shared joys and concerns of the congregation
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Heard a report that Generosity Team (Stewardship Committee) will have video conference call with leader of seminar group on Creating a Culture of Generosity presbytery project
- Approved revision of rental fee for Rec Building - increasing excess hourly rate over contract time period
- Approved baptism for Mattie Margaret Brannock on July 29th
- Were reminded of upcoming Jewelry Sale to benefit Residential Treatment Services.
- Heard a staff report from music director, Chris Bagley, with upcoming plans for our music ministry
- Heard an update on John's knee surgery, and vacation plans

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST
BRANDON TROXLER AND GLENN PATTERSON**



Plans are underway and the date has been set for our (almost) annual **Yard Sale**, sponsored by **Presbyterian Women**. The date has been scheduled for **Saturday, September 15th**. Donations of items for sale can be brought to the church and placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. A few guidelines to follow:

- * Don't bring your junk! Bring items that are clean, in relatively good shape, and sellable.
- * This year we are asking that no clothing be donated. We feel this will help with the sale.

Thanks for your interest, your donations, and your support of Presbyterian Women



HELLO

AUGUST

*Thank
you*



The church has received the following thank you notes from scholarship recipients:

Dear Bethany Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the scholarship award. It will be put to good use at Elon. I am very blessed to have such a great church community!

Love, Morgan Troxler

Thank you so much for helping me achieve a higher education. Without your support it would've been ten times harder!

Thank you, Alondra Mendez



REPORT THROUGH END OF JUNE	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$73,541.35
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$79,158.07
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$5,616.72

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



Summer schedules with vacations, weekend get-a-ways and such, means that church attendance can be sporadic. But that doesn't mean that the expenses of the church go away. They remain constant! Please, as you are making summer plans, plan ahead to ensure that your financial commitment to Bethany remains up to date.





- **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.

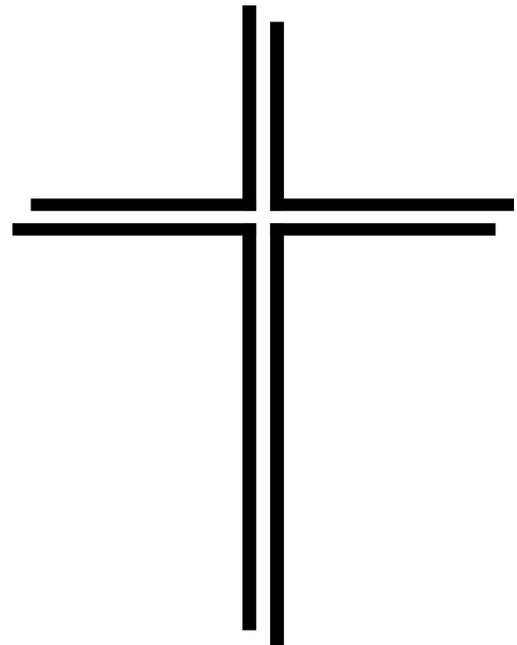
Adult Ministry



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



One of the organizations that Bethany supports is **Residential Treatment Services**. Each September RTS sponsors a Jewelry Sale at Holy Hill Mall to support its ongoing mission. **Presbyterian Women** encourages all women of Bethany to go through their jewelry boxes and consider donating to this worthy cause. A basket will be located in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thanks for your generosity and support!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries!



Happy Anniversary to:

Debbie & John Johnson	August 1
Tina & Glenn Patterson	August 6
Linda & Bill Abplanalp	August 15
Tammy & Richard Patterson	August 18
Nancy & Mike Sutton	August 22

Happy Birthday to:

Ruby Martin	August 1
Jean Payne	August 4
Richard Patterson	August 8
Darrell Holmes	August 10
Carolyn Boggs	August 11
Marilyn Petit	August 11
Zach Wagner	August 13
Millie Fuller	August 15
Emerson Davis	August 15
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	August 18
Samantha Patterson	August 18
Gina Wagner	August 18
Robert Cousins	August 19
Shelvia Russell	August 19
Sue Kimrey	August 20
Betty Boggs	August 22
Jo Robertson	August 30



Bethany Prays

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



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1500 S. MAIN STREET
GRAHAM, NC 27253
336.227.4041
Email:

office@bethanypreschurch.org

Website:

www.bethanypreschurch.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

Twitter:

@bpresbyterian

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve

