



## John's Journal

Each year we say the same things about how fast time goes by and about how we can't believe that summer is gone and school is back in session. But yet, here we are again, saying those things again. And it is true that

time does seem to fly by. The summer months are meant to be filled with fun times, vacations, time with family and friends, time away from work, time for relaxation and rest.

For me, it seems that the summer of 2018 was a blur. It began at the end of May with surgery on my knee, repairing a partially torn quad tendon that I hurt back in 2014. And so, following that surgery meant time on crutches, time in a brace, and finally time spent in physical therapy.

I will complete my physical therapy on Friday, August 31st. There is still work to do, but I will do that on my own. My therapist says that I should be back to normal (whatever that means!) by Halloween.

I feel very fortunate that my recovery has gone so well. I see so many people with far worse physical problems than me, and I am grateful that I have been able to have the damage that was done repaired. I look forward to being able to do more exercise, and hopefully to losing some weight. I am so appreciative of your prayers and support as I have made my way through this process.

But now it's September which brings about promise and possibilities for new things happening at Bethany! First of all, I am so excited about our new Bible study that will begin on September 4th. Disciple Bible Study (published by Cokesbury) has been around for some 30 years. There have been several updates with different versions offered along the way.

The latest has been the "Disciple Fast Track" series. This series is designed for our 21st century lifestyle with its full days and packed calendars. The series that we will be tackling this fall and next year is entitled "Into the Word, Into the World."

This is a 24-week study, divided into two 12-week units. The first unit, beginning in September and ending before Christmas, focuses on Genesis and Exodus. The second unit, beginning in January, and ending in April will focus

on Luke and Acts. There is a Study Manual to go along with each unit, which includes readings for each session and commentary to generate discussion and thought.

We will meet each Tuesday evening at 7:00, with the exception of the second Tuesday of each month which is reserved for the Session Meeting. There is a \$16.00 charge for each of the two Study Manuals.

The class isn't full yet, so if you haven't signed up, now is the time! Just let me know, or call the office and that's all you need to do. Or, just show up on September 4th!!

I have also been encouraged by the work of the Generosity Team, which has been meeting as a part of the presbytery's "Creating a Culture of Generosity" program, and also planning for our fall campaign. As you will notice on page 8, our theme for this year is "do. love. walk." and is based on Micah 6:8. You will be hearing much more about this exciting time as we get nearer to October. You can read more about the campaign in the article on page 8.

September has five Sundays, which means we will once again observe our Fifth Sunday celebration. The day (September 30th) will begin with our Fifth Sunday Breakfast at 9:00, and will include a dynamic and engaging worship experience at 11:00.

Remember that all our fifth Sundays are casual dress Sundays, so come ready to gather to worship, have fellowship, and a wonderful meal with your Bethany family! Chris and I are working on a very special worship experience for that day! You won't want to miss it!

So yes, summer has once again come and gone. As the warmth of the summer sun slowly turns into the chilly air of autumn, may we once again be reminded of the presence of God in our natural world with the changing of the seasons.

And may we rejoice in the presence of God in our lives as we strive to live lives in response to God's love of us through the wondrous gift of God's grace.

God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good!

*John*

# Disciple Fast Track

—Into the Word, Into the World

This 24-week study will immerse you in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts.

**Disciple Fast Track Into the Word Into the World** is an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study Into the Word Into the World*. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. The study retains the familiar Disciple format with its theme word, theme verse, statement of the human condition, daily and weekly assignments, and prayer.

**Into the Word** helps readers deepen their understanding of Scripture and make connections between what they already know and what they are reading. Each week you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. The first discipline varies from week to week, then moves into Sabbath and prayer. In every session, you commit to how you will respond to Scripture in terms of ministry in the world.

**Into the World** identifies some needs in the world for which ministry is needed and suggests possible responses, then invites participants to summarize the scripture message that will shape their ministry and to decide what response and commitment to make to that message. Each week you will be guided in experiencing the gift of Sabbath rest and renewal. Classes meet for a total of 24 weeks, studying Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts for 12 sessions each.

This study will meet on Tuesday evenings (with the exception of the second Tuesdays), beginning on **September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00**. Each session will last approximately one hour. The first half of the study will end before Christmas, with the second half ending by the end of April. There will be one Study Manual for each of the two parts of the study, each costing **\$16.00**. You may pay at the first class session on September 4<sup>th</sup> for the Study Manual for the fall. Kindle versions of the Study Manual are available on Amazon for \$9.99.

Please let the office or John know immediately if you would like to register and haven't already. This should be a wonderful, engaging, and enlightening Bible study. Don't miss out!



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** has been collecting your gently used jewelry for the past few weeks in the basket in the Welcome Center.

The **Jewelry Sale Event** will be held at Holly Hill Mall, in the old American Eagle Store on **September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm (this is the VIP advance sale), Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 6 pm.**

All proceeds from this sale will go to the Mebane Street facility, which is a six-bed home for women in need of recovery from alcoholism and/or drug abuse. This program helps women become productive, self-supporting members of society while building personal recovery programs.

# Spaghetti Lunch

Sunday, September 9th Following Worship

Donations accepted for our Youth Ministries



Join your Bethany family for a delicious Spaghetti Lunch and great fellowship following worship on Sunday, September 9th. We were all blessed with the fabulous Youth Sunday in August, which grew from our youth's participation in the Montreat Youth Conference. This luncheon serves as a fund-raiser for next summer's conference. Your donations will be gratefully appreciated and certainly put to good use!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast**

September 30th - 9 am





**Please welcome new members  
Harry Smith and Peggy Burwell  
who joined our Bethany family on August 19th!**



**It's not too late! You still have time to get your picture made for our new directory!!**

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 taken pictures before and after church on August 26th, and will do so again on **Sunday, September 16th (note date change)**. If you miss that day, just grab her one Sunday! She usually has her camera!

Let's get everyone's picture done so our new directory will be complete and up-to-date!



# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

## September 2nd:

James 1:17-27

*YouTube It!*

## September 9th:

James 2:1-10, 11-13, 14-17

*Dead Faith*

## September 16th:

James 3:1-12

*Taming Your Tweet*

## September 23rd:

Psalm 1

*The Believer Tree*

## September 30th:

Mark 9:38-50

*Closet Cleaning*

## audio sermons

listen anytime,  
anywhere



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

On our website: [www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

On our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

Or by going to: [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198)



It's that time again . . . time for a joyous Fifth Sunday Celebration at Bethany! The date is September 30th, and will begin with a delicious breakfast at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Worship is at our usual 11:00 hour, and is our custom on the Fifth Sunday will be a bit more informal, and will be filled with great music, engaging worship, meaningful message, and joyful praise of our amazing God! Mark your calendar now for this wonderful day!



# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directory Pictures</li> <li>Blessing of the Backpacks</li> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship / Game of Stones Sermon Series IV</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor Day</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generosity Team - Hopkewensville</li> </ul>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>12:00 PM Spaghetti Luncheon</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Circle #1</li> <li>7:00 PM Generosity Team</li> <li>7:00 PM Circle #3</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Session Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yard Sale</li> </ul>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directory Pictures</li> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Generosity Team / with Steve Scott</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Fifth Sunday Breakfast</li> <li>9:45 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Circle #4</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>



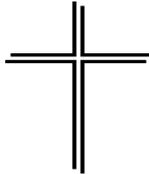
**Your Church Staff:**

*Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt*

**Elders:**

*Chip Allen  
A. J. Campbell  
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 will meet and bring names to the congregation for Elders, Class of 2021
- 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 August 14th. Here are some highlights:**

- Heard a devotion from Brandon Troxler, including a moving video
- Heard moving faith journey stories and welcomed new members Peggy Burwell and Harry Smith
- Heard presentation by Alamance County Boy Scout Coordinator, James Allegretto, regarding Bethany sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack
- Shared joys and concerns of the congregation
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Heard update from Glenn Patterson on sale of property - not much movement at this time
- Heard a report that Generosity Team (Stewardship Committee) regarding plans and dates for fall stewardship campaign, and plans to attend day-long seminar on September 8th
- Affirmed that Glenn Patterson and Jean Payne will serve on the 2018 Nominating Committee / approved calling a Congregational Meeting for August 26th to elect committee
- Agreed by consensus to hold a Fifth Sunday Breakfast on September 30th
- John reported on new fall Bible study to begin on September 4th - *Disciple Fast Track - Into the Word, Into the World.*
- Elected Chip Allen as commissioner to meeting of Salem Presbytery on August 18th
- Heard staff reports from Chris and John

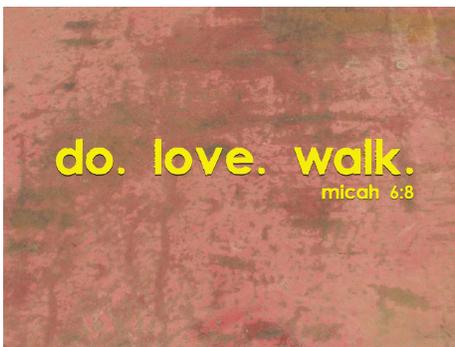
**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018  
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST  
SANDY COOK AND RON OSBORNE**



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



Your **Generosity Team** (Stewardship Committee) has been hard at work making plans - not only for this fall's stewardship campaign, but also ongoing plans for the future financial viability and stability of our church. But our immediate attention will be paid to our **2018 Stewardship Campaign**.

Once again this year we will return to a modified version of the Consecration Sunday model that we used several years ago. **Stewardship Season will be observed on the four Sundays of October**. As you can see from

the logo our theme verse is **Micah 6:8** - "*What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*" - with the emphasis on do, love, walk. On **October 7th** we will consider **DO**; **October 14th**, **LOVE**; and **October 21st**, **WALK**. **Dedication Sunday will be held on October 28th**, with guest preacher, **Rev. Steve Scott**, currently serving as Interim General Presbyterian for Salem Presbytery. Our **Celebration Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 4th following worship**.

Please keep all of these dates in mind and keep your Generosity Team in your prayers as we embark on this important season of the year. You will be receiving much more information along the way.



**REPORT THROUGH END OF JULY**

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$89,466.28
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$94,438.57
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$4,972.29</b>

# GENEROSITY:

GIVING • GOING • GROWING

### 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.

As you can see from the figures for the end of July, we still are running just under a \$5,000 deficit for the year. As you may remember, we began the year anticipating a \$29,000 deficit for the year. Thanks to your generosity and frugal spending, we have been able to cut into that deficit considerably. Our goal is to get this down to zero by the end of the year.

We are grateful that you have been intentional about keeping your pledges up-to-date, and we hope that you will be able to continue to do that over this last quarter. As you are considering end-of-the-year options, any additional gifts that could be pointed Bethany's way would certainly be graciously appreciated.

Yes, we began the year in a hole, but by the grace of God we are slowly digging our way out. Thanks be to God!





- **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.

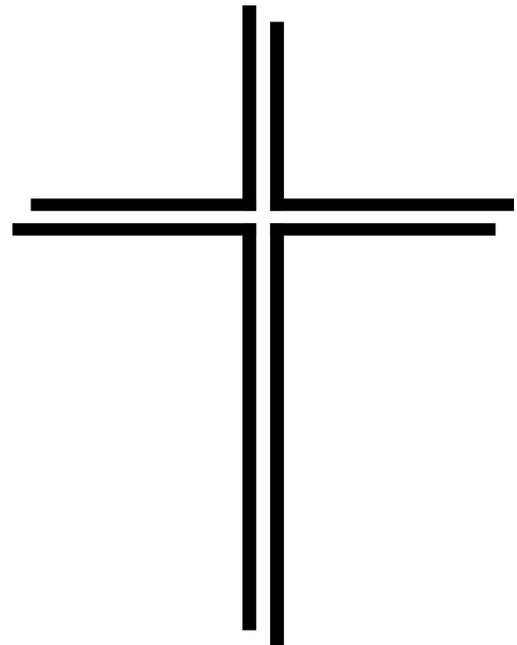
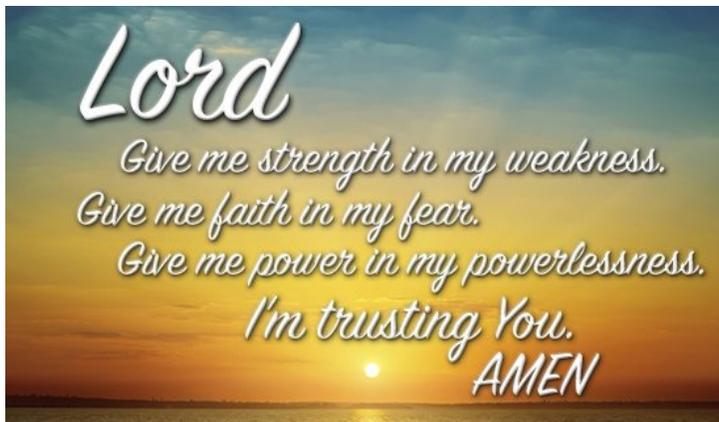
## Adult Ministry



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



# September Birthdays and Anniversaries!



## Happy Anniversary to:

Shirley & Tommy Lane	September 15
Kim & John Snyder	September 18
Janine & Ron Osborne	September 22

## Happy Birthday to:

Barbara Sinclair	September 11
Amy Kimrey	September 13
Kim Snyder	September 13
Hailee Thomas	September 16
Sandy Cook	September 18
Katherine Bayliff	September 19
Peggy Burwell	September 22
Kim Davis	September 23
Linda Abplanalp	September 24
Nancy Purcell	September 26
Glenn Patterson	September 29
Jay Fuller	September 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	Bill Abplanalp
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*

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love learn serve

