



John's Journal

It's the week after the culmination of our big 125th Anniversary, and I continue to marvel at how wonderful our big weekend was. From David LaMotte's amazing concert on Saturday evening, to our moving and joyful worship on Sunday morning and the preaching of J. Herbert Nelson, to the delicious luncheon and fabulous fellowship, it was truly a remarkable weekend.

I can't begin to list the names of everyone who helped to make it the success that it was. I know that **Pat Flythe** had a lot of help in getting everything done. If I began to try to list everybody, I know I'd leave someone out. So please know that if you had anything to do with the weekend, you have my best thoughts and sincerest gratitude!

And I can't go without thanking our caterer **Joy Saleeby** for the delicious luncheon and all that went into it. I know that Joy had help as well, that I also include in my offering of gratitude.

Often times, after a big celebration, there is a little bit of a let-down - a kind of post-event malaise. I hope that we can all decide that this isn't going to happen here. We've got too much momentum to let the excitement die down.

Which is so important as we now head right into our **Stewardship Emphasis Season**. As you will see on page 4, we have an exciting season planned, with our theme of **"Why Church?"** We will answer that question over the four weeks with themes that center around the four areas of ministry that we claim as WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT. Our worship services over these four weeks will center on these themes, and will include Moments for Missions, individual testimonies, special music, and prayerful challenges for our personal and corporate stewardship. Talking about money isn't always fun, but it is vitally important as we consider the future mission and ministry of the church.

It's amazing to me how quickly time goes, because as we finalize our Stewardship Season on Dedication Sunday on November 5th, we'll be just a few weeks from Thanksgiving, and then the beginning of Advent, and you know what that means! Yes, the Advent and Christmas seasons are just around the corner. I have found some

exciting resources for a possible Advent/Christmas series, and I'm looking at them more closely to see how to incorporate them here at Bethany, and to see how I can make this story that we hear every year come alive in new and exciting ways. I covet your prayers as I strive to make this happen!

The past few weeks have shown us just how powerful and devastating nature can be, with the three major hurricanes that have hit United States soil. I had planned to go to San Juan, Puerto Rico October 1-4 for the first face-to-face meeting of the Special GA Committee that I'm on (see page 3), but obviously that meeting was re-located. Please notice the article on page 4 about **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** and the work they are doing in the aftermath of these disasters. Visit their website to read more about the work of PDA, and how you can help with your contributions.

I am hoping that as we move into 2018, that perhaps we can put together a mission team to go to one of these affected areas to help in any way that we can. PDA will be setting up work sites (if they haven't already) in Texas and in Florida, and most likely in Puerto Rico as well. Let us continue to pray for ways that we can help out as God's people continue to suffer in unimaginable ways - through no fault of their own.

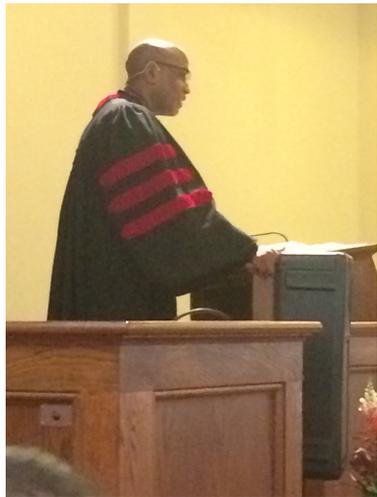
So, October is upon us which means that fall is here. Fall has always been a favorite time of the year for me as the days get a little shorter, the air gets a little crisper, the leaves turn brilliant shades of red, orange, gold, and yellow, and we are made even more aware of God's magnificent creation and the changing of the seasons.

As fall continues and Christmas approaches, may we remember always God's presence in our lives, and rejoice in the amazing gifts that God brings to us each and every day. And may we continue to celebrate 125 years of ministry in this place, and may we pray for many, many more years of service as God's people here at the fork in the road!

Grace & Peace,

John

... and what a celebration it was!!



More photos on our website!

Serving the Greater Church

Our pastor, John Johnson, has been selected by the Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be part of the Special Committee to Study the Reformed Perspective of Christian Education in the 21st Century. The tasks assigned to the committee by the General Assembly include:

1. assessing the historic roles Christian education and certified Christian educators have played in the formation of faithful followers of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian church and determine how our common history informs the future of educational ministry in the life of the Presbyterian Church (USA);
2. examining the current state of Christian education not only in the Presbyterian Church (USA), but also ecumenically, while exploring means by which to lift up and strengthen the educational ministries of congregations and councils of the church;
3. investigating how persons engaged in educational ministry, paid and volunteer, can offer themselves as resources to the denomination;
4. studying current trends in employment of Christian educators within the congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA), including consulting with the Board of Pensions about educator participation in benefit programs through the Board of Pensions, to determine whether there needs to be any changes in the present certification process, so as to make the certification process more accessible to persons, paid and volunteer, serving in educational ministry in congregations and councils of the church;
5. partnering with racial ethnic caucuses and gatherings of small membership congregations to explore how resources and certification in the PC(USA) can be reflective of the diversity in the church; and
6. 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.



The 11-person committee has met via video conferencing a few times and will meet for their first face-to-face meeting October 1-4 at a Presbyterian camp in New Jersey. The six items above have been divided among the committee, with the team that John is on focusing on items 3 and 4. There is much work to do to prepare a report and recommendations for the 223rd General Assembly in the summer of 2018.

Please keep John and the members of the Special Committee in your prayers.



Salem Presbytery's EQUIP Support Team Presents

Little Big Tent Event

Saturday, October 8, 2017

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, High Point

The Gift of the Reformation

Keynote speaker will be former PC(USA) Moderator, Rick Ufford-Chase. Rick and his wife Kitty are co-Directors of Stony Point Center. Rick is also the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and he served as the Moderator of the 216th General Assembly from 2004 to 2006. Rick authored *Faithful Resistance* with writers like Carol Howard

Merritt, Jin S. Kim, and J. Herbert Nelson. It is an important resource for our conversation on how to be the church in the 21st century.

Register at www.salempresbytery.org/little-big-tent-2017-registration.html



WHYCHURCH?

Stewardship Emphasis Season

October 15 - November 5, 2017

The fall of the year has traditionally been the time when we focus on the stewardship of our resources and prayerfully consider our financial commitments for the coming year. For the past two years we have followed the "Consecration Sunday" model, which has been very successful.

The Stewardship Committee (also operating as the Bethany NEXT Work Group) considered several options for this year, and decided to expand on the Consecration Sunday model and make it our own.

And so, the theme of our **2017 Stewardship Emphasis Season** is "Why Church?" The focus for each of the four Sundays is below. You can easily see how each theme fits right in line with our Mission Statement ministry areas of worship, serve, teach, and support.

October 15: *Why Church? Reason One: Community (Worship)*

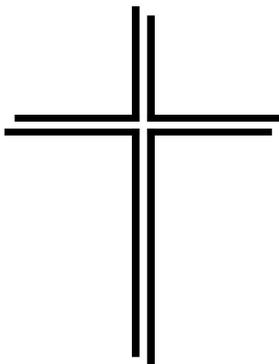
October 22: *Why Church? Reason Two: Real People (Serve)*

October 29: *Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors (Teach)*

November 6 - **Stewardship Dedication Sunday: Why Church? Reason Four: Money Matters (Support)**

John will be preparing a special sermon series in line with these themes, and there will be Moments for Mission on each of these Sundays, highlighting different parts of these ministries.

All of this will culminate on Stewardship Dedication Sunday on November 5th. Please be in prayer as we embark on this important season of our church year.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Hurricane Irma

On Wednesday September 6th, the Category 5 Irma, packing winds of 185 mph, tore through the northern Lesser Antilles and Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico. PDA has been in constant communication with communities in its path.

PDA has been in touch with the leadership of the Synod of Boriquen (Puerto Rico) and the Presbyteries of San Juan, Noroeste (Northwest) and Suroeste (Southwest) to share contact information and grant information.

PDA is also in touch with the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN), which is a mutually agreed upon partnership between six presbyteries in Florida. This is a unique platform in which PDA can relate to all six presbyteries at once for disaster situational awareness.

PDA is also responding in Cuba and the US Virgin Islands.

Hurricane Maria

PDA is remaining in constant contact with PCUSA leadership in Puerto Rico. It is still too early to send in National Response Team members as the resources in Puerto Rico are already stretched too thin. Emergency grants are being issued and when it is safe and secure, and volunteers will not be creating an additional burden on the limited resources, our national response team of bi-lingual volunteers will be deployed to assist. We anticipate there will be an opportunity for long-term volunteers to help with the recovery.

To see how you can help, please go to www.pcusa.org/pda.





October 1st / World Communion Sunday / Guest Preacher, Rev. Amanda Maguire:

Exodus 17:1-7

Living Water and Savior for All

October 8th:

Philippians 3:4b-14

Dark Sky Holiness

October 15th / Stewardship I:

Luke 15:1-10

Why Church? Reason One: Community (Worship)

October 22nd / Stewardship II:

Luke 16:1-13

Why Church? Reason Two: Real People (Serve)

October 29th / Stewardship III:

2 Timothy 1:1-14

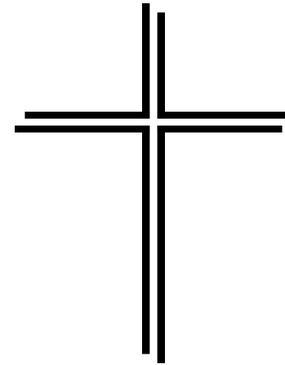
Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors (Teach)

d365
devotionals 365 days a year

Check out the daily devotions online at

www.365.org

Also posted daily to Bethany's Facebook page.



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

5TH *Sundays @ Bethany*

11 am / worship / fellowship / music

Sunday, October 29th
5th Sunday Breakfast
Special Informal
Worship



The Office of the General Assembly
and
The Presbyterian Historical Society
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

honor the

125th Anniversary

of

**BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**



May this memorable occasion bring a deep appreciation for those who have served your congregation in the past and to those who will lead your people in new ways of service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dated this 24th Day of September 2017

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Co Moderators of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
222nd General Assembly (2016)



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 24, 2017

Bethany Presbyterian Church
1500 South Main Street
Graham, North Carolina 27253

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Congratulations on the 125th anniversary of Bethany Presbyterian Church. One hundred twenty five years of continuous ministry is cause for thanksgiving and great joy.

Since its organization in 1892, Bethany Presbyterian Church has helped to shape our identity as a people of God. Bethany Presbyterian Church has served both those desiring to follow the Presbyterian form of worship and the community at large.

As you gather to celebrate the anniversary of your ministry for Christ, I pray that your ministry will be renewed and refreshed. May the grace of our Lord continue to bless your work and worship.

In the faith we share,

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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
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 September 12th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Ron Osborne
- Continued discussion and book study of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Discussed further the issue of selling rental property / agreed to proceed with sale
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Tabled decision on new flooring for the nursery
- Received a reminder of stewardship season and themes
- Were updated on plans for anniversary celebration September 23-24
- Approved guest preacher Rev. Amanda Maguire to supply for John on October 1st
- Tabled discussion of adding another trained nursery worker
- Heard a report from meeting of Salem Presbytery from John
- Heard plans for upcoming officer's retreat
- Heard report of ongoing work of Nominating Committee
- Heard staff report from Chris Bagley
- Heard staff report from John, including information about his participation on General Assembly committee

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER
NANCY PURCELL AND A. J. CAMPBELL**

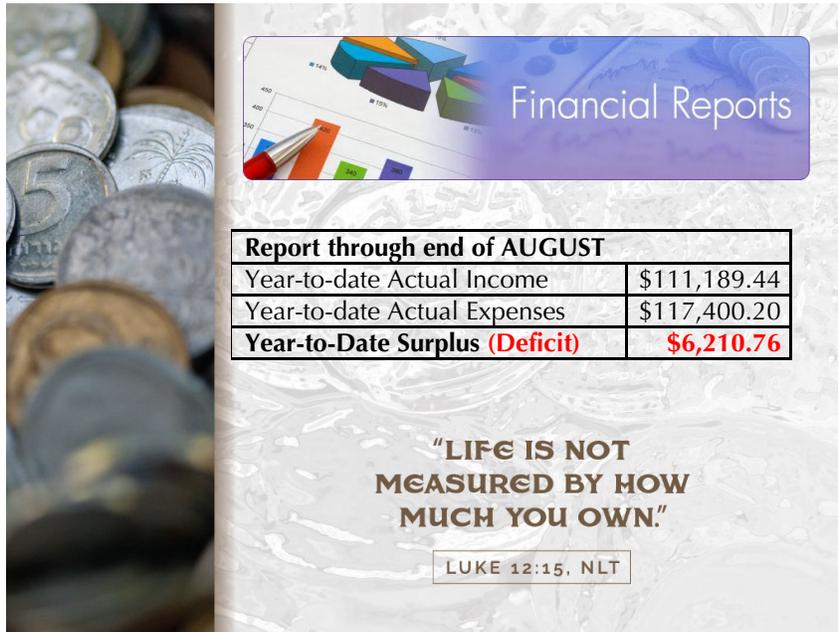


The dates for this year's annual Fall Festival have not been finalized as of this writing, but it will either be Saturday, October 28th or Sunday, October 29th, in the evening at the Rec Building. Once the date has been set, there will be publicity on our website, on Facebook, and through out weekly email newsletter. We look forward to this fun event for the children of our church and community!



October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / Rev. Amanda Maguire, preaching 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Circle #4 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM "What is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Bethany NEXT Work Group 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>9</p> <p>Columbus Day (regional holiday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Circle #1 7:00 PM Circle #3 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Stewardship I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM "What is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Choir Retreat</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Choir Retreat</p> <p>Stewardship II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM "What is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Stewardship III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM "What is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>



Financial Reports

Report through end of AUGUST	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$111,189.44
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$117,400.20
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$6,210.76

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

LUKE 12:15, NLT



As you can see from the above figures, our deficit at the end of August is certainly a concern. Giving during the summer months is historically down. However, the financial commitments of the church continue as usual. Unfortunately, much of this deficit is due to unpaid pledges. There is approximately a \$6,000 shortfall in projected income from membership pledges through the end of August. Thanks to good stewardship, our expenses are actually below budgeted figures for the same time period. Getting behind on your pledge is easy to do - we've all been there. The Session is committed to good, faithful stewardship and encourages all who may have fallen behind, to consider making every effort to keep pledges up to date. To those who have done so - many, many thanks! Let us all commit to erasing this deficit over the next couple of months so we can end 2017 in the black! You may mail in a check or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or pay by credit/debit card through our website.



online GIVING
 easy. fast. effective.

www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving





Children and Youth Ministries

- **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

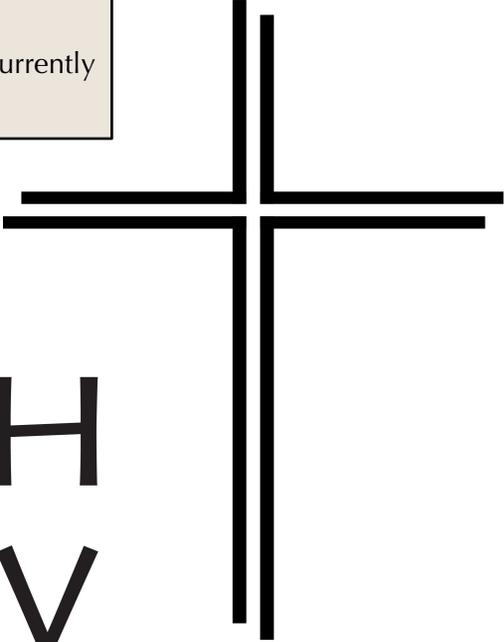
The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's Present Word Curriculum

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

500TH Anniversary

OF THE REFORMATION




Presbyterian Women Circles October Schedule!

- Circle #1:** Monday, October 9th at 10:00 am
- Circle #3:** Monday, October 9th at 7:00 pm
- Circle #4:** Monday, October 2nd at 7:00 pm

October Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Amy & Jimmy Guthrie	October 2
Sue & Ron Kimrey	October 12
Shelby & Danny Smith	October 12

Happy Birthday to:

Faye Campbell	October 4
Carolyn Thompson	October 4
Lila Dampier	October 7
Robert Sykes	October 8
Barbara Cousins	October 11
Pat Flythe	October 11
Mandy Snyder	October 13
Lauren Kimrey	October 17
Lisa Donley	October 22
Joan Perdue	October 22
Eli Smith	October 24
Brenda Sykes	October 25
Chris Bagley	October 31
Lou Crutchfield	October 31



Thank you to the generosity of those who have made Memorial Gifts in memory of **Harold Baldwin:**

- Fellowship Class
- Bobby & Joyce Peele
- Ms. Carla Oakley
- Diane Bullis
- Jack & Shirley Austin, Jr.
- Pearl M. Howe
- Lisa F. Kirkpatrick
- Darrell & Judy Holmes
- Barbara Cousins
- Randy Cousins
- Mary E. Thompson
- Sara Sizemore



Bethany Prays

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Bill Faucette | Diane Miller | John and Ann Sutton |
| Faye Campbell | Jack Cook | Peter Slater |
| Frances Nolan | Polly and Dick Wilson | Joey Leake |
| Layla Benoklen | Teresa Wilborn | Shanno Russell |
| Ida Whitney | Tiffany Tauchren | Shelvia Russell |
| Rachel Poteat | Jean Berry | Mary Moore |
| Jeremy Harden | Christy Lutterloh | Barbara Cousins |
| Anne McDaniels | Eleanor Thompson | Pat Kennedy |
| Mike Sutton | Nancy Sutton | Donna Mitchell-Ayers |
| Stewart Dillard | Norma Proctor | Pete Campbell |
| Ben Johnson | Sandy Cook & niece Rachel | Carolyn Thompson |



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@bpresbyterian

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve

