



John's Journal

As I write this I am a week away from a "bucket list" trip that will take Debbie and me across the Canadian Rockies by train! We are so excited about this

unique trip. And it is unique on several levels.

As you may know, I received a Masters Degree in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) in Richmond, VA in 1979. Those were two amazing years for me, learning what this church life was all about. (I subsequently received a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2000.)

Perhaps the best part of those two years were the friendships made with some amazing people - friendships that have continued and grown over the past 40 years. This group of friends have all had very successful careers in the church - many of them now entering retirement.

Over the years, many of us have gathered at the annual APCE conference that I attend each January. A few years ago, we were chatting and thinking about our upcoming 40-year reunion year, and came up with the plan for a class trip. That conversation has led to the experience that Debbie and I will have October 2-9.

The trip - *Journey to the Clouds* - begins on October 2nd as we will fly to Vancouver. We will spend two nights in Vancouver, exploring this beautiful city.

Bright and early on Friday, the 4th, we will board the Rocky Mountaineer train, heading for Kamloops, British Columbia. On Saturday, our train will take us to Jasper, Alberta, and then we will travel by bus to Lake Louise, and finally on to Banff. On Tuesday, we'll transfer from Banff to Calgary, and then on Wednesday, the 9th, travel home.

For many, many years I have wanted to do this trip. It has been on my bucket list for some time. The reality of actually getting to see this part of God's creation that I haven't seen before is such a blessing. And to

be able to do it with dear, dear friends is just an added bonus.

So, Debbie and I covet your prayers for safe travel, and for memories that will remain with us for many, many years. I'm sure I will take a lot of pictures that I will be eager to share with you!

My only regret about this trip is that I will miss World Communion Sunday. This observance has always been one of my favorites as we come to the table and celebrate with our sisters and brothers from across the globe. It is truly a remarkable event as we remember this simple meal that unites us all as believers. I am grateful to Rick who will preside at the table on the 6th in my absence.

I also hate to miss our Presbyterian Women Sunday! Not only will we celebrate World Communion Sunday, but we will also celebrate our ministry to and with women, as they will lead our worship on that day.

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter an announcement about a reception to follow church on Sunday, the 13th of October. The reason for this reception is a secret, but please plan to stay for a little bit after church. It's going to be a wonderful celebration! That's all I can say!!

October is usually the month we observe our Stewardship Season, but this year we've moved that back to November. You will notice that the three Sundays for Stewardship Emphasis are November 10th, 17th, and 24th - with Consecration Sunday on the 24th, including the Celebration Luncheon. We are also blessed to have a magnificent brass ensemble to help us celebrate in worship that day. This group played for us last November, and I am thrilled that we can have them back on this celebratory Consecration Sunday. Mark your calendars now!!

Before we know it, we will be in Advent, and then Christmas. Time does, indeed, fly! Cherish every moment. Be grateful for each and every day. We are all truly blessed!

As always, I am grateful to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,



Presbyterian Women Sunday

October 6, 2019

Sunday, October 6th will be a big day as we celebrate our ministry to and with women, with our first ever **Presbyterian Women Sunday**. Our service will be led by our women and will be based on a service outline that has been suggested by the national Presbyterian Women office. The service will also include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see below). Mark your calendar for this unique service which is certain to be uplifting and engaging!



Mark Your Calendars

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2019

FALL BOOK STUDY CONTINUES

Our fall book study is off to a great start, and continues to meet each Monday evening - currently at Burlington Beer Works in downtown Burlington. Our sessions have been filled with engaging questions, lively conversation, and much laughter. The rest of the study will include these topics:

Book Four: The Jesus Question

Book Five: The Gospel Question

Book Six: The Church Question

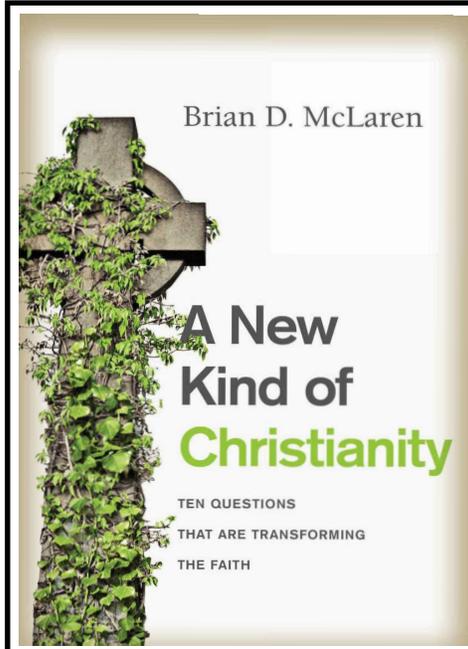
Book Seven: The Sex Question

Book Eight: The Future Question

Book Nine: The Pluralism Question

Book Ten: The What-Do-We-Do-Now Question

Each of these units have sub-themes that will help our discussion along.



We can't tell you why it's happening, but it's happening and you need to plan to be there!

**There will be a reception following worship on
Sunday, October 13th.**

Mark your calendars and plan to join the celebration!



OCTOBER WORSHIP THEMES

October 6th:

Presbyterian Women Sunday
World Communion Sunday

October 13th:

2 Timothy 2:8-15
Missionaries of Charity

October 20th:

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Blackboards, Smartboards, and Heartboards

October 27th:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
I Can Christian Today



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



Coming this Advent Special Worship Series



School Supply Collection

August 2019



October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>Fifth Sunday @ Bethany</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 PM Theology on Tap</p> <p>Book Study</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>John on Vacation</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>John on Vacation</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>Presbyterian Women Sunday</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 AM Circle #1</p> <p>7:00 PM Circle #4</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>12:00 PM Reception following Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Columbus Day/(regionalholiday)</p> <p>6:30 PM Theology on Tap</p> <p>Book Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Circle #3</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 PM Session Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 PM Theology on Tap</p> <p>Book Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 PM Theology on Tap</p> <p>Book Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</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 September 10th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Randy Cousins.
- Continued with our discussion of the book *Canoeing the Mountains*
- Shared in joys and concerns of the congregation
- Received a treasurer’s report shared in the absence of the treasurer - noting a slight deficit through August.
- Were reminded of the theme and dates for our 2019 Stewardship season
- Called for a Congregational Meeting for September 22nd to act on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee as regards to a slate of officers for the Class of 2022.
- Were reminded of World Communion Sunday on October 6th.
- Received a report from meeting of Salem Presbytery from Rick and Randy.
- Adjusted the date for the October meeting due to John being away.
- Approved the expansion of Chris Bagley’s position to a 20-hour week, and to proceed with plans to enroll him in the insurance program of the Board of Pensions.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER
CHIP ALLEN AND RON OSBORNE**



Nominating Committee Completes Their Task!

At a meeting of the congregation on September 22nd, the Nominating Committee presented the names of **Bill Abplanalp, Helen Brown, and Tina Patterson** to be elected to the Session, Class of 2022. They were elected unanimously!

Many thanks to the work of the Nominating Committee (Randy Cousins, Kim Snyder, and Shelby Smith) for their diligence and prayerful consideration of their task, and to Bill, Helen, and Tina for hearing and responding to this important call. Please continue to keep them and all the Session in your prayers.



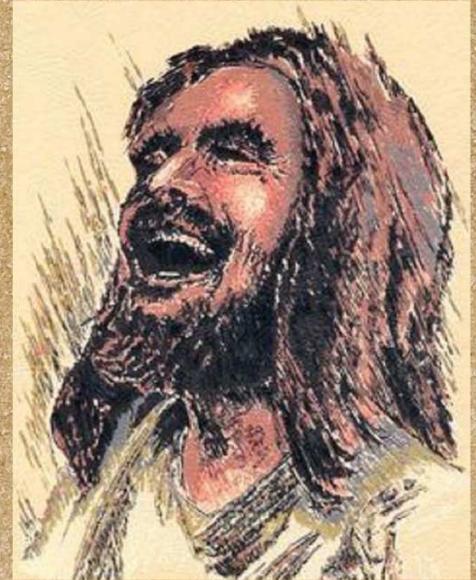
Stewardship Season 2019

November 10, 17, & 24

... sowing seeds ...

... healing hearts ...

... cheerful charity ...



"For God loves a cheerful giver."

-2 Corinthians 9:7

Plans are underway for our **2019 Stewardship Season**, as your Generosity Team (Glenn Patterson, Jean Payne, Nancy Purcell, Rick Purcell, and John Johnson) have met to decide on dates for the campaign, and our theme. You can see from the above that our overall theme is **"Cheerful Giving"** - which is based on 2 Corinthians 9:5-7, which states:

"This is why I thought it was necessary to encourage the brothers to go to you ahead of time and arrange in advance the generous gift you have already promised. I want it to be a real gift from you. I don't want you to feel like you are being forced to give anything. What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop. Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver."

Beginning on **November 10th and continuing for three Sundays**, we will look at this passage in depth as we consider the future of Bethany for the coming year, and how we have been entrusted to be good stewards of this place and the many gifts we have been given.

The season will culminate on **Sunday, November 24th - Consecration Sunday - and our Celebration Luncheon.**

You will be hearing more about this over the next month or so, but please put these dates on your calendar as we celebrate our "cheerful giving"!

Today in the PC(USA) Mission Yearbook - October 2, 2019

How a 50-mile walk took me beyond words in prayer

For three days, I joined other Young Adult Volunteers and a diverse group of Christians as we walked from Ghost Ranch to the Santuario de Chimayo, a historic church in northern New Mexico. The tiring, trying and transformative 50-mile journey through the beautiful countryside continues to color my spiritual growth. Reflecting now, more than a year later, I smile, remembering a poignant moment of the trek: when we held others in intercessional prayer.

Growing up, my relationship with prayer was a struggle. I thought I had to pray the most eloquent prayers, say all of the right words and remember to pray for all of the right people in order for God to listen. Even today, I find it difficult to keep a regular prayer routine because of my stubborn expectations of perfection.

As we set out on the first morning of the pilgrimage, we were asked to walk along the road while physically holding our hands in front of us as a sign that we were holding those we were praying for with us. Maybe because it was early morning, after a restless night's sleep, or maybe due to the building anticipation of a long journey ahead, but on that morning, prayer quickly transformed into something new, imperfect and breathtaking.

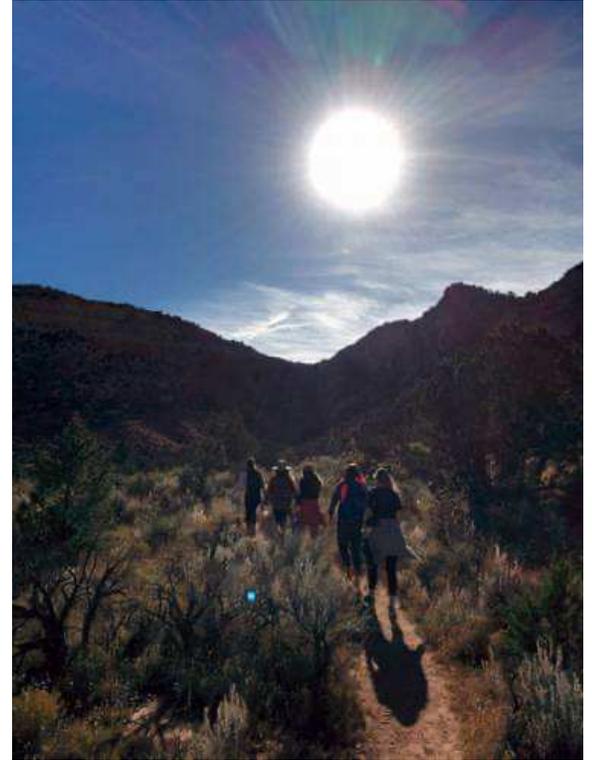
Walking down the road into Ghost Ranch, looking upon the shadow of the well-known peak, Cerro Pedernal, the sun rising behind Kitchen Mesa Trail behind me, I raised my hands in prayer and whispered five names. Before I could construct a prayer to pray for understanding and healing, before I could find all the right words, something stopped me. Their names were enough.

As I finished saying their names, a great, overwhelming sense of emotion and presence came upon me. I really think that for perhaps the first time in my life, I felt the true presence of the Holy Spirit. And it wasn't in the moment when I said the most beautiful prayer. The Holy Spirit accompanied me when I didn't have anything to say. I walked with my arms outstretched, those names in my heart, and an overwhelming (to the point of tears) confidence that God knew my heart and exactly what I wanted to say.

Today, when I can't quite find the right words, or the right time, I often lift up my outstretched hand and remember the words of Romans 8:26: "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Praise God for a Spirit who knows me well enough to calm my expectations, my fears and my failures. Praise God for a Spirit who speaks in my place, when I just can't find the words to say.

Taylor Garrett, served as a Young Adult Volunteer in Albuquerque, New Mexico; currently teaches middle school math





FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF AUGUST 2019	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$107,909.73
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$110,220.63
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$2,310.90



- The following have made gifts in memory of **Don Boggs**:
- Norman & Joyce Mize
 - David & Becky Eatmon
 - Tommy Lane
 - Barbara Cousins
 - Deborah Lincoln
 - Glenn & Carolyn Thompson
 - Bobby & Joyce Peele
 - Danny & Shelby Smith & Family
 - Mike & Betty Sutton
 - Fellowship Class
 - Nancy Thomas
 - Julia B. Howard
 - Calvin Coble
 - Sylvia Hayes
 - Jim & Kaye Willoughby
 - Randy Cousins
 - Kim Snyder

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 24th**, 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.



October Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Sue & Ron Kimrey October 12
Shelby & Danny Smith October 12

Happy Birthday to:

Carolyn Thompson October 4
Lila Dampier October 7
Robert Sykes October 8
Barbara Cousins October 11
Pat Flythe October 11
Salina Russell 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
Christopher Bagley October 31
Lou Crutchfield October 31
Harry Smith October 31

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.

*Thank
you*



Dear Bethany Family,

I just wanted to let you all know how very much I have appreciated all the prayers, thoughts, and monetary donations following the death of our dear Don. He loved Bethany so much and it is obvious that you loved him right back. Thanks so much for your kindness.

Betty Boggs

Find your place!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Christian Education Opportunities

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

Fall Book Study (see page 3) - beginning on Monday, September 9th and running for ten weeks we will be studying Brian McLaren's book, "A New Kind of Christianity."

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
Frederica Beatty
Glenn Thompson
Family of Don Boggs
Janie Holt Clapp
Kim Mitchell-Ayers



**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

