



John's Journal

I shared with you last month my excitement about Debbie's and my upcoming trip across the Canadian Rockies. As I write this we are a little over two weeks past the trip

and we are still basking in the afterglow of that experience! As I shared with the congregation the Sunday after we got back, it was truly a spiritual experience.

The beauty of God's creation in this part of the world is breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Every time the train came around another bend, there was another spectacular view. Riding on a motor coach down the Icefields Parkway, which connects Jasper National Park and Banff National Park, the panoramic views just left us speechless.

But as fabulous as the scenery was, the best part of the trip was being with my friends from graduate school. The Class of '79 of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) has a reputation among church folks. Our class has produced curriculum writers, authors, preachers, teachers, resource facilitators, seminary professors, presbytery executives, and three APCE Educators of the Year.

And we have remained friends over these 40 years. PSCE was a unique school that prepared those called to educational ministry in the church. The bond that was formed within our class has remained strong through the years.

The theme for our trip was "Gratitude." Each evening we gathered for a time of devotion and prayer. And each evening we all expressed a deep and abiding gratitude for our time at this wonderful school, and especially the lifelong friendships that were formed over those two years.

I shared in my sermon the Sunday after we returned home, the words from the children's book "Grateful" written by John Bucchino, and sung so beautifully by Art Garfunkel.

As we move as a congregation into November and into our Stewardship Season, I wanted to share those words of gratitude again.

*I've got a roof over my head.
I've got a warm place to sleep.
Some nights I lie awake counting gifts.
Instead of counting sheep.
I've got a heart that can hold love.
I've got a mind that can think.
There may be times when I lose the light
And let my spirits sink . . .
But I can't stay depressed
When I remember how I'm blessed! (Refrain)
Grateful, grateful, truly grateful I am.
Grateful, grateful, truly blessed
and duly grateful.*

*In a city of strangers, I've got a family of friends.
No matter what rocks and brambles fill the way,
I know that they will stay until the end.
I feel a hand holding my hand.
It's not a hand you can see.
But on the road to the promised land
This hand will shepherd me . . .
Through delight and despair,
Holding tight and always there. (Refrain)
It's not that I don't want a lot,
Or hope for more or dream of more.
But giving thanks for what I've got
Makes me so much happier than keeping score.
In a world that can bring pain,
I will still take each chance . . .
For I believe that whatever the terrain
Our feet can learn to dance.
Whatever stone life may sling,
We can moan . . . or we can sing! (Refrain)
Truly blessed and duly grateful.*

Yes, we are truly blessed and duly grateful. I am grateful for this time of renewal, and I pray that every day we all can be grateful for all the gifts that God has given to us.

As always, I am grateful to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,

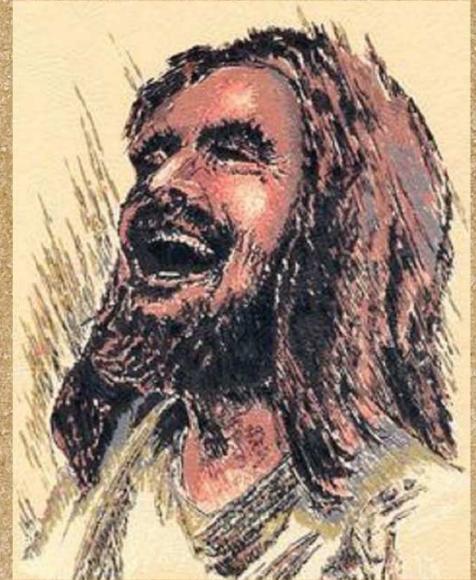
Stewardship Season 2019

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.**

Watch your mail for information about registering for the Celebration Luncheon, and other info about Consecration Sunday!



On Sunday, October 13th, **Don Boggs** (posthumously) and **Bobby Peele** were recognized with the designation of **Elder Emeritus**. The Session conferred this recognition to Don and Bobby for their years of dedicated service to the mission and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian in so many different ways. Following worship, the congregation gathered for a reception to continue the celebration.





NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

November 3rd:

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus at the IRS

November 10th - Stewardship Season I:

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

... sowing seeds ...

November 17th - Stewardship Season II:

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

... healing hearts ...

NOVEMBER 24TH - CONSECRATION SUNDAY:

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

... cheerful charity ...



Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!
There are three ways to listen to audio of our Sunday sermons:

- On our website: www.bethanypreschurh.org
- On our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian
- Or by going to: www.buzzsprout.com/9198



Coming this Advent Special Worship Series



Advent 1: Sunday, December 1st - Matthew 1:20-25, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - *Hope*

Advent II: Sunday, December 8th - Luke 2:8-20 - *Peace*

Advent III: Sunday, December 15th - Matthew 2:1-12 - *Joy*

Advent IV: Sunday, December 22nd - Matthew 1:20-24 - *Love*

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24th - Luke 2:1-20 - *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

NOTE: Our choir will present a Christmas program in worship at some point during the season. A date has not been set yet.

Mark Your Calendars



Tuesday, December 24th - 5 pm

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Fall Book Study 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylight Saving Time ends 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Circle #1 6:30 PM Fall Book Study 7:00 PM Circle #4 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship I 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans Day 7:00 PM Circle #3 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salern Presbytery 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship II 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship III 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Celebration Luncheon 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Friday 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Decorating Sanctuary 	<p>30</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

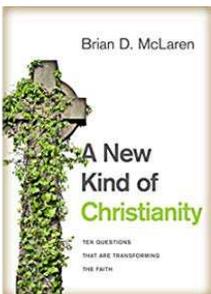
Rick Purcell (Clerk of Session)



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on October 15th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Chip Allen.
- Welcomed Elders-Elect to the meeting
- Heard a presentation from guest Brian Spangler, who manages our financial assets
- Shared in joys and concerns of the congregation
- Received a treasurer's report from the treasurer
- Were reminded of the theme and dates for our 2019 Stewardship season
- Received a report from Personnel Committee regarding medical benefits for staff
- Heard an update on some of the concerns about our buildings, including an update on obtaining a different cleaning service
- Established a Task Force to study the feasibility and options for renting the manse
- Chris reminded the Session that he and the choir will be away attending a church choir retreat at Lake Junaluska the weekend of the 20th.
- Adjusted the date for the November meeting due to John having surgery.
- Participated in a Officer Training Session for all Elders.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER
KAREN MAXWELL AND TRACEY TROXLER**



Our Fall Book Study has been a great success, and we moving close to completing it early in November. Participants in the study have been Helen and Bill Brown, Chip Allen, Bill Abplanalp, Tina Patterson, Foy and Katherine Bayliff, Rick and Nancy Purcell, Joy Saleeby, and John. Our discussion have been

enlightening, challenging, and engaging.

Be on the lookout for a winter study beginning after the first of the year!



Pictures from John & Debbie's Trip





Presbyterian Women News

Circle #1 met on October 7th at 10:00 am. Eight people were present including two new members (Sandy Russell and Linda Abplanalp).

We heard a study entitled "Words of Love: Don't Trivialize My Name" based on scripture from Exodus 20:7 and Matthew 7:21-23. We had a discussion regarding what project we would like to undertake during our circle year. A decision was made that we would support the need for assistance with children's lunches at one of the schools in our area. Linda asked if there was an ongoing project where all the ladies in our church currently involved with. We discussed that maybe the ladies would be willing to support a project for "hygiene kits"; but we are open for any other suggestions that someone might have.

Also, if anyone is interested in the morning circle, please don't hesitate to come and join us.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 4th at 10:00 am at the church.





FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF SEPTEMBER 2019

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$118,234.73
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$122,698.75

YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT) **-\$4,464.02**

You will notice the figures above reflect a deficit in our budget through the end of September. This was expected as the Session did approve a deficit budget at the beginning of the year. The good news is that the deficit is not as big as we had anticipated!

The last three months of the year are historically strong months for giving. Let us work together to see if we can end the year in positive numbers (as we did in 2018)!

Your generosity to Bethany enables us to continue the mission and ministry of this great church. We are grateful that we can build upon a strong foundation as we move into a bright tomorrow!



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

The following have made gifts in memory of **Faye Campbell**:

- Brenda & Robert Sykes

The following have made gifts in memory of **Ellie Purcell (Rick's Mom)**:

- Sylvia Hayes



November Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Helen & Bill Brown

November 25

Happy Birthday to:

Randy Cousins

November 2

Reis Smith

November 7

Pat Kennedy

November 9

Susie Hunley

November 11

Joyce Mize

November 15

Becky Eatmon

November 19

Nancy Sutton

November 21

Karen Maxwell

November 22

John Snyder

November 26

Brandon Troxler

November 28



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.

At the October Session meeting, I shared with the Session an update on some health issues that I have been dealing with.

I am fortunate that, although I am dealing with issues that most males my age deal with, there is no sign of cancer. However, bladder issues caused by an extremely enlarged prostate will necessitate surgery to remove the prostate.

I am scheduled for surgery on Monday, November 11th. This is outpatient, and I should only be out a few days. The laser procedure is non-invasive, so the recovery should be quicker. I am planning on being back in the pulpit the following Sunday!

I covet and appreciate your prayers.

- John

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
Alex Thomas
Robert Sykes
Frederica Beatty
Glenn Thompson
Family of Don Boggs
Janie Holt Clapp
Kim Mitchell-Ayers



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