



John's Journal

For the past twenty years, come late January, I get my stuff all packed up and make my way to attend the annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators or APCE. I

have been privileged to serve in several leadership roles in APCE over the years, but having rotated out of those roles last year, this year I was able to go and just enjoy the conference, without running myself ragged. Yes, I did have a workshop to lead (which went very well), but not having to tend to the business of APCE was very freeing and rejuvenating.

I mentioned on Sunday how enthused I was to see so many younger people attend the conference, and how I see this is a positive sign for the future of the church, and especially Christian Education. Each time we gathered as a community - whether it was worship, plenary, meals, workshops, or fellowship - there was an unbounded energy that permeated the entire event.

Knowing that these younger people will be the ones who will be telling our story to the next generation(s), is heartening and joyful!

And the bonus in attending these conferences is the chance to be with my dear friends from across the years and to renew and strengthen those friendships. So, thank you for giving me the opportunity and the time to participate in this event. I hope I will be able to utilize what I gleaned from it over the next few months.

One thing that I discussed informally with colleagues there is what their churches are doing in regards to live-streaming their worship services. Several people made reference to my doing the "Facebook Live" streaming of my sermon back on January 8th when we had to cancel worship because of the snow. Many watched the stream, and others decided to take my lead and do the same thing.

I have been amazed at the response to my delivering my sermon in this unique way. According to the metrics that are available on Facebook, there were over 300 "views" of the live stream on that day. Now, whether 300 people actually watched the entire thing, is yet to be determined.

But the fact that over 300 people at some time or another at least saw part of it, is rather remarkable.

In meeting with the Bethany NEXT Work Group a couple of weeks ago, in our ongoing focus on looking for ways to upgrade and expand our mission and ministry, we talked about the live stream experience back in January, and where that might take us.

I shared with them my conversations with several colleagues in the presbytery who were live-streaming worship services now, and about the extremely positive responses they have all had to this. In looking into this possibility for us, I (we) have found that it is rather easy and relatively inexpensive to do. And think about what this would mean to folks who have to miss worship, or who are out of town, or who have family and friends far away who might want to participate in our worship service in this unique way. The possibilities certainly are endless.

And so, once the NEXT group nails down what the costs would actually be, and gets more details, they will present this to the Session for its consideration.

As we move now into the second month of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, let us not be satisfied with the status quo and to just sit on our hands. But let us instead always look for new and creative ways to tell our story and to communicate with those far and near about who we are as people of God and disciples of Christ.

As we move through February and then into Lent, let us do so always with an eye to the future and what lies ahead!

Grace & Peace,

John





MINISTRY TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

John outlined overall responsibilities for Ministry Teams in worship on January 29th. As promised, here are more specific responsibilities for each Ministry Team.

WORSHIP Ministry Team:

- Follow Worship Policies and Guidelines and update as needed
- Work with pastor to develop a deeper understanding of worship among congregation
- Consult with pastor as to order of worship, sanctuary appointments, aids to worship, etc.
- Place paraments in sanctuary according to schedule
- Arrange for pulpit supply in absence of pastor
- Train ushers and acolytes
- Make sure ushers are on duty each Sunday
- Provide for receiving of offerings at each service
- Oversee entire music program, including special concert series and choral scholars program
- Oversee use of sanctuary
- Develop and implement Policies and Guidelines for weddings and funerals

SERVE Ministry Team:

- Oversee implementation of continuing mission projects
- Oversee summer mission experiences
- Receive and study requests for benevolent needs
- Work with Treasurer and Bookkeeper to see that benevolent funds are distributed on a timely basis
- Keep the congregation informed of mission activities and programs
- Serve as liaison for Allied Churches Ministries Center
- Be responsible for collection of Pennies for Hunger Offering
- Serve as contact point for Presbyterian Women and Men of the Church with the Session
- Keep current on mission work of the PCUSA and communicate to congregation
- Oversee and maintain Welcome Center
- Visitor follow-up

- Coordinate Coffee and Conversation time
- Explore new trends in evangelism
- Establish and maintain proper signage on church property
- Oversee shepherding program
- Oversee bereavement team
- Oversee all fellowship activities
- Oversee Stephen Ministry Program

TEAM Ministry Team

- Provide Sunday school classes and teachers for all ages
- Provide additional Bible studies throughout the year
- Work with the pastor in implementing officer training
- Oversee Sunday youth programs
- Oversee youth conference participation
- Oversee Vacation Bible School

SUPPORT Ministry Team

- Coordinate the annual stewardship campaign
- With the Session, develop an annual budget
- Provide for an annual review of church financial records
- Oversee the work of the Church Treasurer
- Oversee the work of the Bookkeeper
- Administer the church's monetary income and expenses
- Maintain online giving option
- Responsible for all aspects of maintenance, repair, upkeep, upgrades, and renovations to all church property
- Serve as liaison and contact for cleaning service
- Oversee all personnel matters, including staff reviews and evaluations
- Recommend salaries for staff
- Oversee all electronic communication, including website, weekly e-news, church computers, church membership database, etc.
- Oversee distribution of scholarship funds
- Oversee work of the Nominating Committee
- Oversee work of the Bethany NEXT Work Group



bethany presbyterian
125th Anniversary
1892-2017



Growing
Stronger

Growing
Deeper

Reaching
Higher

Isaiah 40:31

... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

We had a fabulous kickoff to our 125th Anniversary Celebration on January 29th, with a delicious breakfast and a engaging and energizing worship celebration, focusing on the "Growing Stronger" element of our overall theme! Mark your calendars for our other celebrations coming up:

Sunday, May 28, 2017

- ***Growing Deeper***
- Sunday closest to actual anniversary date of May 29, 1892.
- Welcoming former pastor **Rev. Norman Whitney** as guest preacher for the day
- Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon following worship

Saturday, September 23, 2017

- Concert by singer/songwriter/author **David LaMotte**

Sunday, September 24, 2017

- ***Reaching Higher***
- Culmination of 125th Anniversary Celebration
- Welcoming PCUSA Stated Clerk **J. Herbert Nelson** as guest preacher and **David LaMotte** as guest musician
- 125th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon following worship



together everyone
T E A M
achieves more

T.E.A.M. SUNDAY COVERED-DISH DINNER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH - 6:00 PM

EVERYONE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO COME!



Are you interested in serving your church in a very unique way? Well, there's a spot for you! The **Bethany NEXT Work Group** is seeking new members who are committed to the future growth in ministry and mission of Bethany Presbyterian. The group usually meets monthly (except around special events) and usually for a meal!

This group was formed in 2014 by the Session to serve as sort of a "long-range planning" group - but one that is looking at all aspects of Bethany's ministries - from facilities, to programming, to stewardship, to worship, and everything in between. The group continually tries to answer the question, "What's NEXT?"

Don't you want to be a part of and have a voice for the future of Bethany? Come and serve in this unique way. If you have an interest, or have any questions, please see John at any time. He can be reached at the church at 336.227.4041, or on his cell at 336.214.5859. Or, shoot him an email at





February Worship Themes



February 5th:

Luke 7:1-17

The Compassion of the Christ

February 12th:

Luke 7:18-35

Are You the One?

February 19th:

Luke 7:36-50

Much Love

February 26th:

Luke 9:28-45

The Tunnel at the End of the Light

IS LIVE STREAMING COMING?

Sunday, January 8th saw us wake up to several inches of snow on the ground, which led us to cancel worship on that day. For those who are on Facebook, John was able to present his sermon live at 11:00 (from his dining room!). The response to this has been overwhelming! Following up on this positive response, the Bethany NEXT Work Group is investigating the possibility of live-streaming our worship services each Sunday. Many churches (including smaller churches like Bethany) are offering this as a ministry to those who are unable to attend worship, or who are out of the area and desire that connection with "back home"!

Surprisingly, the per-month cost is less that one might think. There would be some up-front expense of getting the equipment purchased and installed. Stay tuned as more information is gathered, and the Session determines what is best for Bethany and our ministry!

online sermons

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

On our website: www.bethanypresbyterian.org

On our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

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

Worship



Attendance

What You Need to Know

The saying goes that "where two or three are gathered . . ." and it is certainly true that God is present and active wherever we gather as God's people, and no matter how many people are there.

And although we affirm the idea that "numbers don't matter," we also recognize that having people in the pews on Sunday mornings does indicate that lives are being fed and that it is important to be here.

We have been invigorated by the resurgence in attendance over the past couple of months - especially during December. And so, we would like to celebrate that by sharing our attendance numbers in this space each month - showing worship attendance figures for the past few Sundays. And a special thanks goes to Glenn Patterson and Rick Purcell, who do the recording of attendance each Sunday. Here are the recent figures:

- December 24 (Christmas Eve) - 46
- December 25 (Christmas Day) - 41
- January 1 (New Year's Day) - 63
- January 8 - Snow - Church canceled
- January 15 - 53
- January 22 - 67
- January 29 - 64



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
Sherrie Moore
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 January 10th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Nancy Purcell
- Welcomed new Clerk, Rick Purcell, and new elder, A.J. Campbell
- Heard a report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne, indicating an end of the year surplus
- Heard a report from Ron Kimrey regarding several property issues, including the ongoing issues with the boiler
- Affirmed the nominations of Sherrie Moore and Glenn Patterson to serve as elders on the Nominating Committee - which will be elected by the congregation at a later time
- Heard a report about plans for the 125th Anniversary Celebration throughout the year
- The Session was reminded about special kickoff celebration on January 29th
- Heard a report from Jean Payne regarding ongoing service opportunities
- Heard a report from Brandon Troxler about youth and children activities over the Christmas season
- The Session was reminded about the need for a commissioner to the February meeting of Salem Presbytery
- The Session received copies of amendments from General Assembly that will be voted on in February
- Heard a report from Music Director, Chris Bagley
- The Session was reminded that John will be away attending the annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) in Denver the 24-28th.
- Heard a positive report regarding attendance in worship during the past couple of months
- Approved a proposal to move the February meeting one week earlier, to February 7th, so as not to conflict with Valentine's Day!



**NEXT SESSION MEETING - FEBRUARY 7TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY
JEAN PAYNE AND GLENN PATTERSON**





FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEART MONTH

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of **Life Line Screening**. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build-up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on **February 20, 2017** at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information or to register call **1-888-653-6441** or go to **www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle**.



Join us for our annual
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
Wednesday, March 1st - 7:00 pm
Scripture, Prayers, Meditation,
and Imposition of Ashes



Join your Bethany friends during the Lenten Season as we gather for our
Lenten Lunches Study Series.

This year we will be using the series
“Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem.”

We will begin on Wednesday, March the 8th, and meet each Wednesday through Lent at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch and join us!

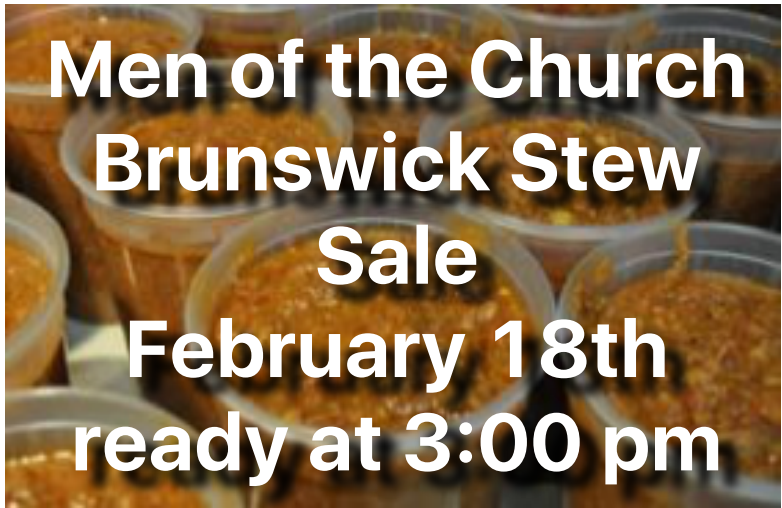




STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIALS

Report through the end of DECEMBER (Year End Report)

Year-to-Date Actual Income	\$199,482.25
Year-to-Date Actual Expenses	\$173,839.64
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$25,642.61



As you consider your giving to the church in 2017, perhaps now is the time to consider online giving - like the graphic says: fast, easy, and convenient. And, completely safe and secure. This is a good way to keep up with your pledge even when you're away, as you can set up an automatic draft from your bank account or your credit card. Just go to our website and follow the link on the home page, or go to this link to get signed up: www.bethanypresbyterian.org/online-giving.

Join the growing group of Bethany folks who have opted for this convenient way of honoring their pledge to the church.





Children and Youth Ministries

- **Sunday School for Youth and Children /** Meets on the second floor of the Education Building at 9:45 am
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pew (nearest the choir loft)
- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday morning.
- **“Sunday Fundays”** - watch your calendar and announcements for info.



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 Seekers’ Class - meets in the church office, using various curricula with discussion of topical issues.

Covenant Bible Study - continues - meeting each Thursday evening at 7:00 (with exceptions).



Here’s what’s happening with our circles:

- Circle #4:** Monday, February 6th - 7:00 pm
- Circle #1:** will meet on Monday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m. Members are reminded to bring paper products for Residential Treatment Services of Alamance County
- Circle #3:** will meet on Monday, February 13th at 5:30 pm, to deliver Valentine goodies to our homebound members. Dinner out will follow!





BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to:

Jill and Byron Bullis	February 14
Jennifer and David Foust	February 22
Velna and Tommy Foust	February 23

Happy Birthday to:

Bobby Peele	February 7
Kayla Donley	February 8
Laura Mitchell-Ayers	February 16
Joyce Peele	February 18
Rick Purcell	February 21
Sherrie Moore	February 23



David LaMotte



"charm, stories, humour, insightful songs, sweet voice and dazzling guitar ability."

- BBC Radio Belfast

Photo by Rodney Smith

In Concert

Bethany Presbyterian Church
Saturday, September 23rd - 7:00 pm
Watch for information on ticket sales!

www.davidlamotte.com



Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette

Jack Cook

Family of Dr. Bob James

Diane Bullis

Mary Moore

Jeremy Harden

Harold Baldwin

Ron Chilton

Diane Miller

Peter Slater

Joey Leake

Shannon Russell

Rachel Poteat

Christy Lutterloh

Eleanor Thompson

Gail Sloane

John & Ann Sutton

Frances Nolan

Layla Benoklen

Ida Whitney

Jean Berry

Pat Kennedy

Mike Sutton

Duffy Strigo

Faye Campbell

Polly & Dick Wilson

Teresa Wilborn

Tiffany Tauchren

Barbara Cousins

Anne McDaniels

Nancy Sutton





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love learn serve