



John's Journal

Even though Lent has come about as late as it can come, it still seems like we packed away the Christmas decorations and finished up all the celebrations associated with the

Christmas season. But here we are, Lent 2017.

I am writing this article the day after Ash Wednesday. We had a wonderful celebration of Shrove Tuesday with our annual Pancake Dinner. What a great turnout for some delicious pancakes and sausage, and fabulous service from our young people. There was much laughter and fellowship around the tables.

Our Ash Wednesday worship was hampered by the severe storms that were coming through the area right at the time that folks would be coming to the service, but those who made it here were blessed with a meaningful service to begin our Lenten journey.

As we head into Lent, there is always a lot of talk about what we're going to "give up" for Lent. The practice of giving up something for Lent has a long history, and goes back to the idea that in remembering the sacrifice that Christ has made for us by going to the cross, we can make a small sacrifice by giving up something that will help us remember.

Of course, what we give up has to mean something. For me, giving up lima beans would be really easy and wouldn't be a sacrifice at all. But Diet Mountain Dew - that's a whole other story.

I have been focusing over the past several years on, instead of giving up something for Lent, to add some Lenten discipline to my life. Maybe it's to make a better effort to get some exercise, or a more disciplined prayer life, or meditation, or Bible reading - something added to my life that will hopefully add to my understanding and appreciation of Lent.

This has always been a meaningful part of the liturgical year. I am humbled as I remember Christ's sacrifice on my behalf, and I always get emotional at our Maundy Thursday service as we commemorate Christ's final night on earth.

I am intrigued and excited about our new liturgy that we are adding this year - the Lenten Candle Liturgy (see page 4). As explained in the article on Page 4, this liturgy will take us step-by-step through the Lenten season, and will be a visual reminder of the life that was snuffed out, but then defeated death and rose to victory on Easter Sunday.

I invite you to join me in this Lenten walk. Join me on this First Sunday of Lent on March 5th as we celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Join me on each Sunday during Lent as we remember Christ's walk to the cross. Join me on Palm Sunday as we trace Christ's final triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Join me on Maundy Thursday as we are moved by the reality of what is to come.

And then, join me on Easter Sunday, April 16th, as we celebrate the new birth, the new life, the new everything that was risen on that day.

And then, join me on April 23rd as we celebrate with music as our choir and musicians present Part II of Handel's *Messiah*, as we continue our Easter celebration.

We have much to be grateful for here at Bethany, and I hope you can appreciate the gift of this great church. As we continue our celebration of 125 years of ministry and mission in this place, may we commit to doing our part to make sure that future generations will look back with gratitude in what we have done to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.

May each of you have a blessed and holy Lenten season!

Grace & Peace,
John





Music Ministry

Lenten/Easter Season Music Service – Handel’s “Messiah” Part II

This year’s seasonal music service will be held on Sunday morning, April 23rd (the week following Easter Sunday). The Chancel Choir will present Part 2 of George Frederick Handel’s “*Messiah*”. The work is divided into three sections. The best-known of the three is Part 1 (commonly referred to as the Christmas portion). Part 2 deals with the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. This section concludes with arguably the most performed piece in church music history, *The Hallelujah Chorus!*

While this is certainly an ambitious undertaking for an eight-person choir, we are excited to tackle this undertaking. Invitations have gone out to some very special vocalists and instrumentalists who have agreed to join with us - **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We invite you to join the choir in rendering this special musical offering. Regardless of your experience in singing, we encourage and welcome anyone interested in being a part of this endeavor. As you saw with our very successful Christmas Cantata, even just a few additional participants can make a huge difference. This is a difficult piece, but to assist us with learning the music, we are utilizing the 4 CD collection of the “Do-it-Yourself Choral Tutor”. Each CD highlights a vocal part to make it easier to learn your music. You will be issued a CD and a music score at rehearsal.

Over the next 8 weeks, we will begin our regular weekly choir rehearsals (7:00pm on Wednesday evenings) with work on “*Messiah*”. If you have any questions or think you may be interested in singing, please feel free to contact me or any of the choir members. You can also leave a message with the church office. We hope that you strongly consider joining us in this extraordinary opportunity to minister!

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher A. Bagley, Director of Music

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



Lenten Candle Liturgy

Beginning on Sunday, March 5th, and continuing throughout Lent, ending on Easter Sunday, April 16th, we will be adding something new to our Lenten worship services - a **Lenten Candle Liturgy**. During Advent, we began each service with the lighting of our Advent Candles, leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. During Lent, as we remember the death and resurrection of Christ, we will extinguish one candle at the end of our service each Sunday, until we are left with the one remaining Christ Candle on Maundy Thursday. It will be extinguished then, and then re-lit as part of our glorious celebration on Easter Sunday. Make your plans to join us for this unique observance of Lent.

Boiler is on Life-Support!

Hopefully you all have received the letter that was mailed out a few weeks ago, with information about the condition of our 40-some year old boiler that is nearing the end of its many years of service! Following a recent incident when there was no heat in the building (during the week) some "band-aid" repairs were made, thanks to Bobby Peele and Ron Kimrey.

After extensive research and receiving several bids for replacement, the Session at its February meeting, approved the bid of around \$28,000 to install a new boiler. It was felt that this was a very good price for what we need.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the boiler will last throughout the winter, and that the installation can take place when we are not in need of heat.

There are funds available in our capital improvement account to cover this expenditure. However, with the reality that our air-conditioners are aging as well, we don't want to deplete that fund very much. So, **any donation to help defray the cost of the new boiler will be greatly appreciated.**

Donations can be sent directly to the church, or can be donated online through our website. Your help and generosity are received with great thanks!





March Worship Themes

March 5th:

Luke 10:25-37
The Bad Samaritan

March 12th:

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
Mic Drop

March 19th:

Luke 15:1-32
Only in the Gospels

March 26th:

Luke 16:19-31
... More ...



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Mark your calendars for our annual **Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 13th at 7:00 pm**. This moving service commemorates the final night of Jesus' life as he gathers with his disciples around the table. We will also gather around the table in this solemn remembrance of the sacrifice that has been made on our behalf.



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

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:

- February 5 - 65
- February 12 - 54
- February 19 - 57
- February 26 - 60



Easter SUNDAY

April 16, 2017

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Shepherd Meeting 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Pancake Supper 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship / with Communion 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Bethany NEXT Work Group 7:00 PM Circle #4 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylight Saving Time starts Second Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Circle #1 7:00 PM Circle #3 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>

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)



Nursery Upgrades

We have been so blessed with the presence of our paid nursery workers on Sunday mornings. The Session's commitment to quality child care for our youngest members is commendable and timely.

The Session is also committed to having a safe, clean space for our children. Ongoing plans are underway for a significant nursery upgrade, with the top priority being flooring and painting. Bids are being considered and hopefully work can begin very soon on this important project. Stay tuned!



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on February 7th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Jean Payne
- Welcomed guest Pat Flythe and heard a report on plans for our continuing celebration of our 125th Anniversary
- Received an update on continuing rental property issues / agreed to send certified letter to tenants outlining concerns
- Received information about plans for upgrading of our nursery / requested additional quotes for flooring
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer Ron Osborne
- Heard a report from Ron Kimrey and Buildings and Grounds with several quotes for replacement of boiler / approved recommendation to replace boiler, accepting bid of around \$28,000
- Received information from Jean Payne and SERVE Ministry Team regarding the Shepherd Program
- Approved a recommendation to send letter to congregation soliciting donations
- Heard a report from Glenn Patterson and Personnel Committee that staff evaluations have been completed
- Received information concerning upcoming T.E.A.M. Covered-Dish Dinner and Programs / with assignments for each dinner
- John presented the Session with a book for study for the coming year - *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Session was reminded of visit in March from General Presbyter Sam Marshall of Salem Presbytery

**NEXT SESSION MEETING - MARCH 14TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH
KAREN MAXWELL AND BRANDON TROXLER**



Lent Calls Us to Reflect on What is Dying and Rising in our Church Today by Lee Hinson-Hasty

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Rev. Lee Hinson-Hasty is Senior Director for [Theological Education](#) [Funds Development](#) at the Presbyterian Foundation. Through his work, Lee hopes to capture and share a more expansive view of theological education, of church leadership and of vocational discernment as he sees through the eyes of some exciting Presbyterians in and related to PC(U.S.A.) seminaries.



Dying is part of transformation, of course, and 2016 was full of it. The deaths of public personalities seemed to hit us all almost weekly: Prince, David Bowie, Debbie Reynolds, Carrie Fisher, Leonard Cohen, John Glenn, Gwen Ifill, Florence Henderson, fellow Demon-Deacon

and legendary golfer Arnold Palmer, fellow Louisvillian Muhammad Ali, holocaust survivor and writer Elie Wiesel, among many others.

One that struck me particularly hard was the apparent suicide death of Larry DeLong (http://www.gvnews.com/news/pastor-dies-of-self-inflicted-gunshot-at-sahuarita-park/article_9995b270-6c7c-11e6-9035-9705fce1817e.html), pastor and head of staff of Valley Presbyterian in Green Valley, Arizona. Sixty-years old, Larry was a member of our Seminary Support Network and a commissioner to the 2012 General Assembly. He left a wife and two teenage children along with his congregation and community.

The other death that hit me hard was that of my Uncle Daniel Hoyle (http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlo_e/obituary.aspx?pid=180538461). Married 45 years to my father's youngest sister, my Aunt Joyce (http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlo_e/obituary.aspx?pid=183710117), Uncle Dan would have been 70 in November 2016 but he died in June. He stood over 6'5" in his younger days but when cremated only amounts to about 8 1/2 pounds of ashes inside a plastic urn of 8 x 5 x 4 inches. Those ashes, as he wished, await burial alongside and at the same time as his wife when she dies, because they never wanted to be alone.

In November 2014, we moved my Uncle Dan and Aunt Joyce to Louisville where I serve as their Power of Attorney. Thousands of mourners lined the streets of Louisville including me when Muhammad Ali died in early June 2016. Barely a half-dozen gathered for my Uncle's memorial service just a few weeks later. The thousands lined up for Dan came earlier in his life, the

ones with drug and alcohol addictions that he, and the dozens of other counselors he trained, helped to manage their diseases. Both Dan and Ali were baby boomers, one of the largest generations our country has ever seen. Anywhere from 4,000 to 10,000 baby boomers die daily and will do so for the next 35 years. Many of you have and will be presiding over the burial of these folk, many who are and will be lay and clergy leaders and friends. In 2016, the Pew Research Center said the population of Millennials surpassed Baby Boomers.

This all makes me think that "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" said on Ash Wednesday is pre y heavy stuff... even heavier than 8 1/2 pounds!

The weight I am carrying daily as well as my often prayed prayer of transformation relates to the realities described above. Over 80% of the currently active ministers of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) will be eligible to retire in the next 13 years. These are our baby boomer pastors who serve us well. Many of them have already retired. Most have mentored new pastors. I wonder will there be enough pastors called into ministry and prepared for service to fill the pulpits and positions they retire? Will those positions still be there?

Frankly, I'm not sure about either question. I am convinced we need to be prayerfully and strategically asking these and other corollary questions together. Maybe this Lent, through the resources our seminaries and other provide and gatherings of Presbyterians like at the NEXT Church national gathering (<http://nextchurch.net/>) March 13-16 in Kansas City, we will find time to reflect on what is dying and rising in our church today.

The city symbol of Debrecen, Hungary (<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2011/2/2/hungarian-sabbatical-blessing-and-peace/>) is a Phoenix rising. It is a reminder that they have risen up after

invasion after invasion for centuries, including invasions by the Soviets, Germans and Austrians. My prayer is that we all may rise from the ashes this Lent toward the new life God is providing.



[This article can be found at www.pcusa.org/]

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIALS

Report through the end of JANUARY	
Year-to-Date Actual Income	\$12,297.93
Year-to-Date Actual Expenses	\$16,426.44
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,128.51)

march

THANK YOU

Just a note to say "Thank You" to all involved in our recent Brunswick Stew fund-raiser for the Men of Bethany. It's really not just about fund raising! It's the fellowship that comes with this event. Our men, women, and even our youth took part this year, and it is truly heart-warming to see everybody come together for a common cause. From early preparation to last closing clean-up this ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all. So saying thank you for all of your support (whether you worked to help our bought stew in support) may seem small. It is appreciated more than you know. So until next year - God bless each of you and thank you again!

Bethany's Men of the Church



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

- 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.

- 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

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 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).



*Bethany
Presbyterian
Women*

Here’s what’s happening with our circles:

Circle #1: met on Monday, February 13th with seven members present. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Circle #3: will meet on Monday, March 13th

Circle #4: will meet on Monday, March 6th

Hello

March!



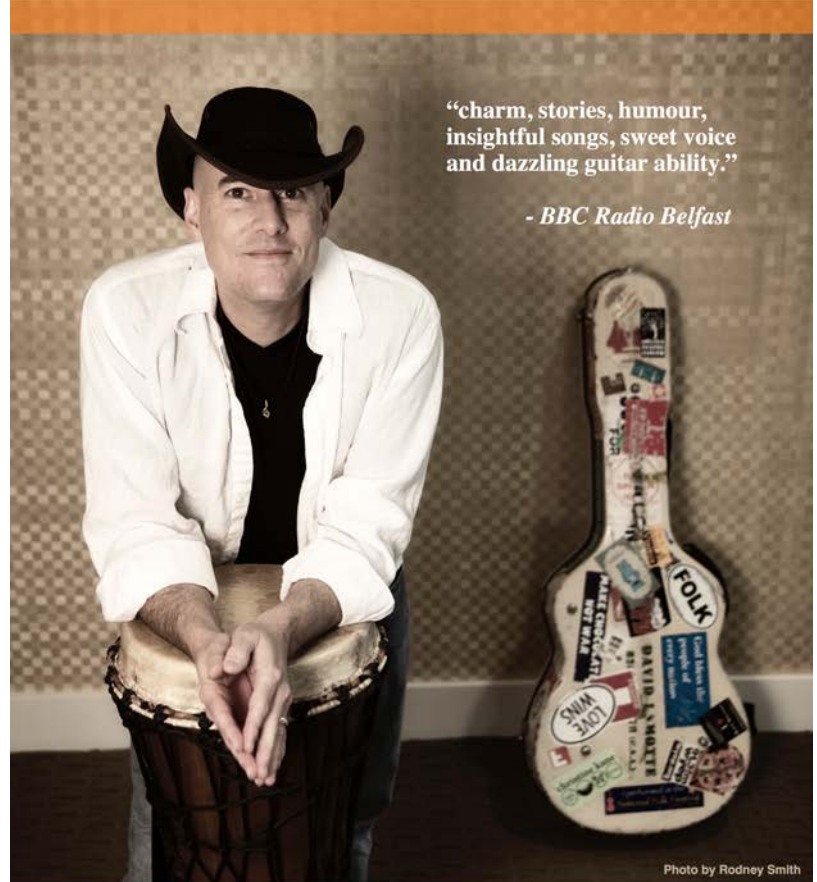
Happy Anniversary to:	
Lisa and Russell Donley	March 11
Happy Birthday to:	
Russell Donley	March 2
Glenn Thompson	March 3
Joanna Warren	March 4
Liz Hodson	March 7
Jill Bullis	March 9
Macie Smith	March 12
Danny Smith	March 16
Helen Byrd	March 18
Grace Dampier	March 18
Tommy Foust	March 20



Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller
Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Joey Leake	Layla Benoklen
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton
Norman Mize	Donna Mitchell-Ayers

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



John & Ann Sutton
Frances Nolan
Teresa Wilborn
Mary Moore
Jeremy Harden
Eleanor Thompson
Duffy Strigo
Gail Sloane

Faye Campbell
Polly & Dick Wilson
Shannon Russell
Rachel Poteat
Christy Lutterloh
Harold Baldwin
Ron Chilton



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love learn serve