



John's Journal

Another Lent and Easter season has come and gone. And wasn't it a joyous Easter day as we gathered to celebrate the glorious good news of the empty tomb! We have this six-week buildup

to Easter and then this amazing outpouring of joy and celebration . . . and now what!

Is there a letdown after Easter? Do we fall right back into our usual patterns of life and forget why we did all that celebrating? And thanks to Chris and the choir for helping us continue our celebration with the amazing presentation of *Messiah*.

But we women at the tomb were urged to do, we too, are charged to "Go and Tell!" We must go and tell the good news.

In one of the more interesting passages of the New Testament, we find the story of the women at the tomb. "He is gone before you into Galilee, as he said to you." "Where you will find him." What is the significance of pointing out the fact that he is going to Galilee? Looking at the story in context, it seems that this is less about a

specific place and more about a direction to a particular kind of activity.

Galilee is the place of Jesus' ministry among the "least." There he crossed over the boundaries that separated the clean from the unclean. There he ate with tax collectors and sinners, and proclaimed that all God's children are holy.

So, what is the message that we are to take from this directive? It seems that the message is that in order to truly have an encounter with the risen Lord, to truly know the risen Lord, to truly see the risen Lord, we have to participate in a ministry like that of Jesus and his followers in Galilee.

The church is not only called to worship at the feet of the risen Lord. The church is called to go in joy, to go and tell, and to continue Jesus' work of calling all of God's children to the service and worship of God.

Jesus' promise is that in this work the disciples - we - will

see him. And the promise is still true - that as we follow Jesus' mission, as we go and tell in all our joy and fear, we too will see him, and we will know him to be our resurrected and living Lord.

And so as April turns over into May, how do we live this out in our day to day existence? We live it out by continuing our joyful worship and praise of the risen Lord. As I said recently, every Sunday is Easter Sunday!

We live out our calling also by continuing to care for those who are in need. We care for our homebound members with visits and calls and cards. We care for the sick as we see fit. We pray for those who are in need of our prayers. We care.

And we continue to live out our calling by participating in the 2017 West Virginia Mission Trip. We will be going to a different location than the past years, and working this summer. We will be giving more information coming soon, but if you're interested, let me know. The dates are July 16-20, and the location is Colcord, WV.

And so my challenge to you is to continue to be resurrection people! Continue to revel in the unbelievable good news of the empty tomb. And continue to reach out in love as we go to all the Galilees of the world.

May Eastertide of 2017 be a joyful time for each of you.

Grace & Peace,

John

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Bethany Welcomes Back Norman Whitney!

We are quickly approaching the second installment of our **125th Anniversary Celebration on May 28th**. Make your plans now to join us for worship on that Sunday as we welcome back long-time pastor **Rev. Norman Whitney**, who will be our guest preacher on that Sunday. After a 42-year pastorate at Bethany, Norman was Honorably Retired by Salem Presbytery in 2009. He and his dear wife Ida are still active in the community, and Norman serves as a Parish Associate at First Presbyterian in Burlington.

Sunday, May 28th is the day closest to the **actual anniversary date of May 29, 1892**. Please take a moment to read the historical synopsis which can

be found on our website here: <http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/our-history-and-beliefs.html>.

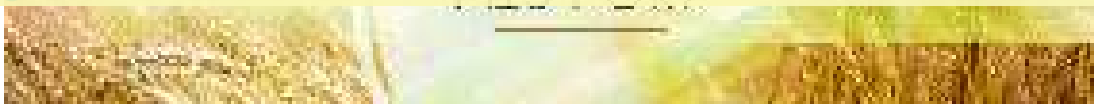
Following worship on that day, please plan to join your Bethany family for a time of fellowship and good food as we gather for a **Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon**. This will be an opportunity to greet Norman and Ida, and to continue our anniversary celebration! Mark

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Come Visit our New Historical Room



As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, and as a way to make our historical artifacts and information more accessible, the Session has approved the plan to make the old Men's Bible Class room (next to the parlor) be designated as the **Bethany Historical Room**. All of the items that were previously in the back of the Young at Heart classroom have been moved to this new location, and is in the process of being organized for display.

As we highlight our history it is very appropriate that we have a place that will be dedicated - not only as a place for what we already have, but also a location for future items of historical significance to be placed.

Anyone who has anything pertaining to the history of Bethany, including pictures, that would like to donate or loan for display, please contact Joy at the church. And take a moment at your leisure to check out the items that will be on display.



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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

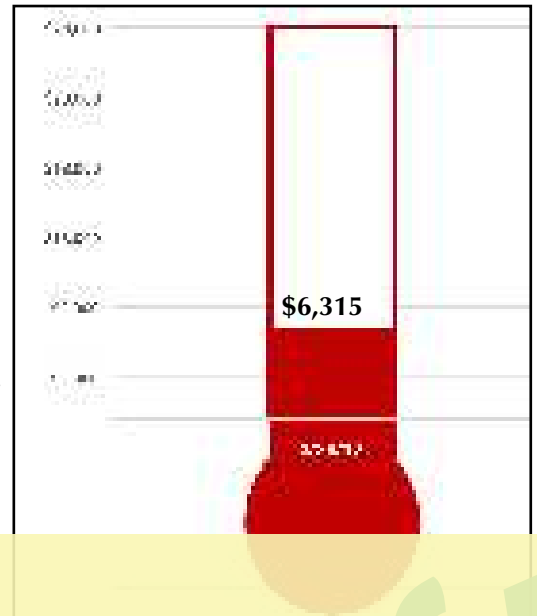
- ***Reaching Higher***
- Culmination of 125th Anniversary Celebration
- Welcoming PCUSA Stated Clerk **J. Herbert Nelson** as guest preacher and **David LaMotte** as guest musician
- 125th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon following worship



New Boiler Being Installed!

Bethany has been a buzz of activity this last week of April as our new boiler is in the process of being installed. The pictures below show the old one, showing the wear and tear of 40+ years of service having been removed in sections, and the new one ready to be installed. If everything goes as planned, the installation should be complete within a week, with state inspections to follow. Then we'll be ready for next winter!

Everyone should have received a letter with information about this project, and the costs involved. As was shared in the letter, although capital funds are available, we don't want to deplete those as we anticipate other possible major projects this year. Total cost of the new boiler is around \$28,000. We are



requesting donations to help offset this cost.

You can see the thermometer graph that shows our goal

(\$28,000) and what has been collected so far (\$6,315). Each month we hope to see the red rise on up to our goal!

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Many thanks for the generosity of those who have already made donations. You can find yours at any time by logging into the website, or you can make your donation with a credit/debit card through our website.

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who have made donations for the new boiler:

- Roger Flythe
- Levi & Helen Byrd
- Don & Betty Boggs
- Sara Sizemore
- Faye Campbell
- Millie Fuller
- Norman & Joyce Mize
- Harold Baldwin
- Susie Hunley
- Darrell & Judy Holmes
- Fellowship Class
- Bill Brown
- Chip Allen



May Worship Themes

May 5th:

TBA
TBA - Guest Preacher, Rev. Sam Jenkins

May 14th:

Acts 15:1-18
Signs and Wonders

May 21st:

Galatians 1:11-24
A Life Worth Living

May 28th - 125th Anniversary Celebration!:

Isaiah 40:28-31

TBA - ...

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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

Worship

Attendance

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Here are the attendance figures for April (except for the 30th)

- April 2 - 70
- April 9 - 59
- April 13 (Maundy Thursday) - 31
- April 16 (Easter) - 95
- April 23 (Messiah) - 81

Beginning the last week of April, those of you on Facebook may have noticed a devotional showing up on the Bethany page each day. This is an intentional effort to provide a brief devotional for each day for those who might want that.

These can be found at www.d365.org, a website which provides a brief devotional 365 days a year. The devotionals are divided into five parts: pause, listen, think, pray, and go. They are perfect for those who are busy or who can't find adequate devotional material.

Bookmark the page and either go there on your own, or follow the link that will be on Bethany's Facebook page each day. There will also be a link on Bethany's website.





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**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE**

It's Brand New!

A church website should be seen as the “front porch of the church,” where folks who are interested in learning more about the church can find that information. Our website had remained pretty much the same for some time, and was in great need of upgrading and revamping. Please take a few moments to take a look at it. There is also a new domain name: www.bethanypreschurh.org. There are a few pages still under construction. Take a few minutes to explore!

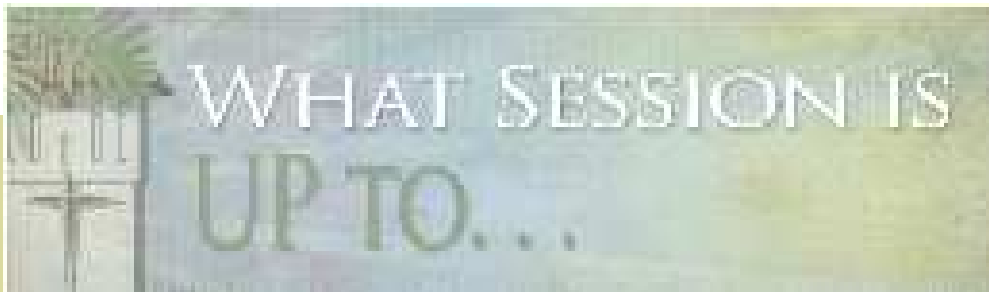


Your Church Staff:

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 April 11th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Sherrie Moore
- Continued discussion and book study of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Heard a update on cleaning services for the church / will continue with current service
- Received another quote for new flooring and painting in the nursery / will request one more quote
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Set Stewardship Emphasis Season for October 15th, 22nd, 29th, and Stewardship Dedication Sunday for November 5th
- Received an update on continuing plans for 125th Anniversary
- Approved a proposal to establish a former Men's Bible Class room as the History Room and move all historical artifacts into it room
- Reminded members to bring their own Easter Eggs to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Saturday, April 15th from 11:30-1:00.
- Received information regarding the meeting of Salem Presbytery on May 16th at First Presbyterian, Salisbury
- Heard a staff report from Chris Bagley / including a reminder about the presentation of Part II of Handel's *Messiah*, as part of morning worship on April 23rd.
- Heard a staff report from John

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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!

**NEXT SESSION MEETING - MAY 9TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR MAY
RON KIMREY AND NANCY PURCELL**



**June 29-30
6-8 pm**



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	1 7:00 PM Circle #4	2 7:00 PM Session Meeting	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00 PM Men of the Church	5 Bar Luncheon	6
7 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	8 10:00 AM Circle #1 7:00 PM Circle #3	9 7:00 PM Session Meeting	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	15 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 6:00 PM Men of the Church	18	19	20
21 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	22	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00 PM Men of the Church	25	26	27
28 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Potato and Salad Bar Luncheon	29 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 6:00 PM Men of the Church	1	2	3

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STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIALS

Report through the end of MARCH

Year-to-Date Actual Income	\$43,475.25
Year-to-Date Actual Expenses	\$47,038.50
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	(\$3,563.25)

WHY CHURCH?

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS SEASON 2017

OCTOBER 15th, 22nd, 29th

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY

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- *October 15th: Why Church? Reason One: Community*
- **October 22nd: Why Church? Reason Two: Real People**
- **October 29th: Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors**
- **November 5th - Stewardship Dedication Sunday: Why Church? Reason Four: Money Matters**

After two successful years of using the Consecration Sunday model, there was a consensus that it was time to try something different. And with this being our 125th Anniversary Celebration year, the theme of Why Church? just seemed to fit!

You will be hearing more info soon for this exciting time in the life of Bethany, as we consider our stewardship obligations for 2018 and beyond!



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.

even when you give away as you can set up an automatic debit from your bank account or your credit card. Just go to our website and follow the link to get online-giving.

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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.

Adult Ministry

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Bethany
Presbyterian

Let's worship

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Circle #1: will meet on Monday, May 6th
 Circle #3: will meet on Monday, May 8th
 Circle #4: will meet on Monday, May 1st

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.

WEST VIRGINIA

MISSION TRIP
JULY 16-20, 2017



Happy Anniversary to:	
Joyce and Norman Mize	May 2
Happy Birthday to:	
Amy Guthrie	May 5
Ron Kimrey	May 8
Sara Sizemore	May 9
Ron Osborne	May 11
John Johnson	May 12
Christel Schappacher	May 15
Levi Byrd	May 22
Shirley Lane	May 22
Daniel & Nichell Ayers	May 25
Mike & Kenna Schell-Ayers	May 25

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David LaMotte

"Witty, sharp, humorous, insightful songs, great voice and stunning guitar skill."

— *THE ROLLING STONE*

In Concert
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Saturday, September 23rd - 7:00 pm
Tickets on sale now!

www.davidlamotte.com

Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton	Faye Campbell
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson
Joey Leake	Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Rachel Poteat
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh
Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo	Stewart Dillard
Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods



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love learn serve



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