

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve
bethany press



VOLUME VI NO. 5

MAY 2018

John's Journal

What an amazing month April has been. We began the month with a spectacular celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. And then followed that up the next Sunday with our choir's amazing

presentation of "Gospel Mass," that filled our hearts and our souls.

I have been pleased with the beginnings of our Spring Book Study - looking at Shane Claiborne's "Jesus For President." And then, as I write this, we have a Fifth Sunday @ Bethany coming up to finish the month out. So, April has been busy, full, exhilarating, and yes - for us clergy types - tiring. But worth every ounce of energy and every second of time.

So, what then does May have in store. After the joy of April (and I think spring is actually finally here), how could we possibly top that in May. Well, the good news is that we don't need to top anything. All we need to do is keep moving forward and keep striving to be sincere disciples of Jesus Christ.

But May does have its high points as well. May 13th sees us celebrate Mother's Day - not a religious holiday, but nonetheless important. I invite you to read the special Mother's Day prayer that is on page 7 of this newsletter.

And then, of course there is Pentecost Sunday on May 20th - one of my favorite liturgical observances. For one thing, it's one of the few times I get to wear my red stole! As shared in the article elsewhere, there are many reasons we celebrate Pentecost - the least of which is the beginnings of this thing we call the church. So, remember to wear red on the 20th.

May will not only be a busy and full month for me, work wise, but there will be some personal things going on as well. In addition to a significant commemoration of another trip around the sun, on May 25th I will finally be having surgery on my knee.

As you may be aware, four years ago this June I injured my knee while doing some yard work around the house. The injury was not in the joint, but rather in the quad tendon - the tendon that connects the quad muscle to the patella (knee cap). In the injury, I ruptured that quad

tendon, but not altogether. The doctor said that I got about 2/3 of it! I wish now that I had gone ahead and had the surgery then, but everyone thought that it would just heal on its own with some physical therapy and time. It didn't.

Over the next few years, I had hoped it would improve, but the constant tightness and discomfort never did go away. I went for a second opinion a couple of years ago, but that didn't give me any hope for relief.

Finally, a few weeks ago I went for a third opinion, and was pleased to find that surgery would be a good option and that it should get me back to some semblance of normalcy. The surgery will involve going in and cleaning out scar tissue, and then re-attaching the detached tendon back to the patella. I made the mistake of looking up the surgery on YouTube. I won't do that again!

The doctor indicated that I would be on crutches and in a brace for 4-6 weeks, and then have physical therapy for two months or so. I'm not looking forward to that, but I'm very much looking forward to being able to be more active, to get more exercise, and to be able to get around better and be more mobile.

The way it works out, it looks like I will only be out one Sunday (May 27th), but will be preaching from a stool for awhile after that!

So, the summer of 2018 will be an interesting one for me - personally and work-wise. I am looking forward to two interesting sermon series (see page 4), as well as a new Summer Movie Series (see page 5). Mark your calendars for all of these summer events, and let us continue to celebrate the glorious good news of the resurrection each and every Sunday!

I covet your prayers - not only as your pastor - but also as I face this surgery in a few weeks. And pray for Debbie as well. I'm not sure what kind of a patient I'm going to be!

Thanks for your friendship and for the privilege of being your pastor!

John



Pentecost Sunday

May 20, 2018

Worship Theme:

Babel Fish Church

Wear RED to church!

Why Do We Celebrate Pentecost?

Pentecost is observed on the fiftieth (pente) day after Easter, and commemorates the so-called birthday of the church as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. Reading the passage we hear how all the people were gathered in one place and suddenly there was a howling wind and tongues of fire descending from the heavens. Even though they were from all different countries and spoke many different languages, they each heard them speaking in their own language. Peter preached a sermon that day, quoting from the prophet Joel:

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

And so we celebrate Pentecost because it is a gift of God through the Holy Spirit that the church was born that day. We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and we wear red to church on that day - May 20th! It is a gift. Let's celebrate!

Easter Egg Hunt - 2018



THE ANSWER TO

BAD RELIGION

IS NOT

NO RELIGION

A GUIDE TO

GOOD RELIGION FOR SEEKERS,

SKEPTICS, AND BELIEVERS

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Mark your calendars NOW for this unique Summer Sermon Series: ***The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion***. Using the resource by author Martin Thielen as a guide, John will lead us on this six-week journey, with the following themes:

Week 1: The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion, but Good Religion

Week 2: The Answer to Judgment is Love

Week 3: The Answer to Negativity is Hope

Week 4: The Answer to Arrogance is Openness

Week 5: The Answer to Division is Community

Week 6: The Answer to Passivity is Passion

Exact dates will be published later, but the series will begin in June, following the May celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.



GAME OF STONES

OLD WORDS,
NEW PERSPECTIVES

Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments
August 2018



May 6th:

Acts 10:44-48

Spirit-Driven Disruptions

May 13th:

Luke 24:44-53

Maybe That'll Work

May 20th - Pentecost Sunday:

Acts 2:1-21

Babel Fish Church

May 27th:

TBA

TBA

audio sermons
listen anytime, anywhere

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

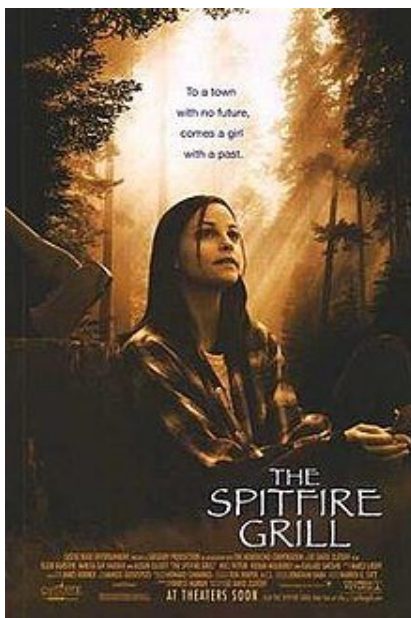
Or by going to: www.buzzsprout.com/9198



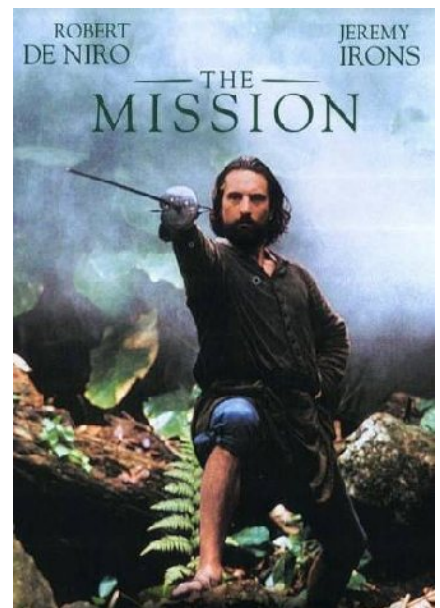
Sunday, June 10th - 6:30 pm



Sunday, July 15th - 6:30 pm



Sunday, August 19th - 6:30 pm



May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	30	1 7:00 PM Session Meeting	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4 5:00 PM Plant Sale (Members Only) 7:00 AM Plant Sale	5 Creating Culture...renewal Seminar 7:00 AM Plant Sale
6 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	7 7:00 PM Circle #4	8	9 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12
13 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	14 10:00 AM Circle #1 12:30 PM Alamaance Coun-ty Clergy 7:00 PM Circle #3	15 Presbytery	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	21	22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 John's Knee Surgery	25	26
27 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28	29	30 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	1	2



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
 Sandy Cook
 Karen Maxwell
 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 10th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Ron Osborne
- Welcomed across-the-street neighbors for a brief discussion of property that is for sale
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Were reminded about upcoming Salem Presbytery offering "Creating a Culture of Generosity" with a plea for several to join John in participating
- Were reminded of Fifth Sunday Worship and Communion on April 29th / decided to not have a meal in conjunction with this Fifth Sunday
- Heard a very positive report from Easter Egg Hunt
- Were reminded about upcoming Spring Book Study
- Called for a meeting of the Corporation to follow worship on April 29th
- Heard Joys and Concerns and offered prayers.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018
 ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR MAY
 GLENN PATTERSON AND NANCY PURCELL**



A Prayer for Mother's Day

May is the month that we celebrate Mother's Day. We pause to honor the mother's our congregation. Most of us celebrate Mother's Day with fond memories. But it is important to remember that there are some whose memories may include things that aren't so fond.

There are those who continue to grieve the lost of a mother . . . or grieve the absence of a mother in their lives.

And so, with that in mind, let us offer the following prayer:

Heavenly parent of us all, we give you thanks for mothers everywhere. We give thanks for their love, care, concern and compassion. We lift up to you especially those who have struggled in their roles as mothers, where the path has not been smooth. We pray for those whose mothers perhaps failed in any way. Bring hope in the midst of their lives, whether as mothers or as children.

For those relationships that are strained, grant reconciliation. Where there is pain, bring the healing of your grace and mercy. For those unable or who decide not to have children, fill their hearts with your amazing love. For those who have witnessed their mother's journey to begin a new life with you, may good memories fill their souls.

As we reflect may our own hearts of love extend to all mother's everywhere.

Open our hearts today, Lord, and imprint your message of love upon them, that all we say and do is done in your name and for the sake of your people and your world. Amen.

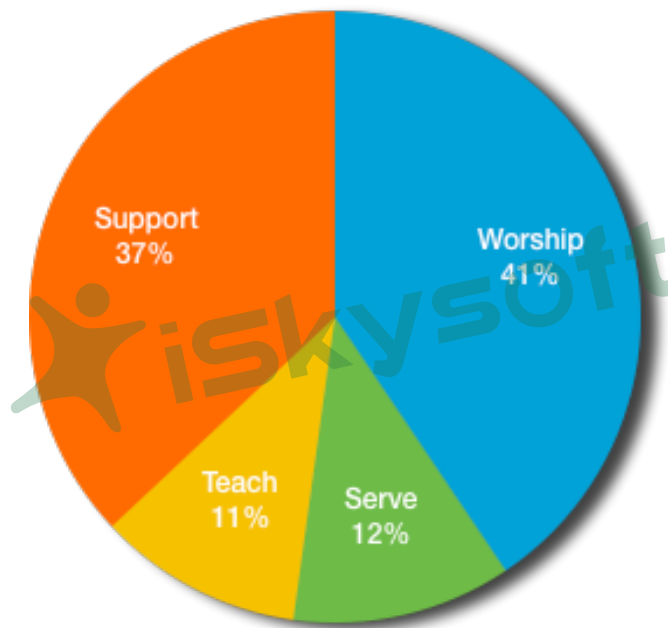


2018 Narrative Budget

At a meeting of the Corporation of Bethany Presbyterian Church of Graham, NC, Inc. following worship on April 29th, the congregation was presented with a Narrative Budget for 2018 - outlining how funds are allocated among the four ministry areas of Worship, Serve, Teach, and Support. Instead of just taking the four areas as outlined in the budget that is presented to the Session each month, parts of the Support area (salaries, insurance, utilities, etc.) were allocated to each area as a percentage of the work or support that is given in that area. Below you will see the pie chart indicating the figures for each area. As always, for those who wish, a detailed line-by-line budget can be obtained in the church office.

This Narrative Budget is part of our continuing effort to be totally transparent in our financial life here at Bethany. As we have indicated before, we do have some challenges for 2018, but we are confident that with your help and support, these challenges can be overcome.

Bethany 2018 Budget Allocation



MINISTRY AREA BUDGET AMOUNTS	
Worship	\$68,509
Serve	\$19,606
Teach	\$18,279
Support	\$62,469
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$168,863

Total Anticipated Ministry Needs for 2018 - \$168,863



REPORT THROUGH END OF MARCH

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$36,663.01
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$38,368.46
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$1,705.45

Ways to support Bethany Presbyterian Church

1. Place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday.
2. Mail in check to church office.
3. Use your bank's online bill pay to send a payment to the church.
4. Setup an Electronic Funds Transfer from your savings or checking account on our website or scan the QR code below.
5. Use your debit/credit card on our website or scan the QR code below.
6. Make a gift of stock or other appreciated securities. Contact the church office for more information.
7. Remember the church in your will and your estate plans.



GENEROSITY: GIVING • GOING • GROWING

In an effort to assist churches in their stewardship programs, which will then enhance the ministry and mission of its churches, Salem Presbytery is embarking on a two-year program called ***Creating a Culture of Generosity***. Here is some information from the presbytery website:

How Do We Build a Culture of Generosity in our Church?

There is no cookie-cutter approach to designing a stewardship plan - every church is unique.

Creating a Culture of Generosity is an 18-month learning community for the congregations of Salem Presbytery. Four workshops will address topics directly related to raising money for ministry, as well as to deeper on the interrelated dynamics of faith, spirituality, and giving.

Congregational teams will craft short- and long-term action plans to implement between workshops. An investment in stewardship today will reap rewards many tiems over in the years to come.

John will be attending the first seminar on May 5th, and then be joined by other session members at the future seminars over the next 18 months. Please be in prayer for the session as we continue to search for ways to enhance our ministry and mission through your generosity.






- **Sunday School for Youth and Children** / Meets on the second floor of the Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pew (nearest the choir loft) / there are activities provided

- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday morning.
- Watch your calendar and inbox for special activities for our young people throughout the year.

find your place

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



Presbyterian Women Circles May Schedule!

Circle #1: Monday, May 14th at 10:00 am

Circle #3: Monday, May 14th at 7:00 pm

Circle #4: Monday, May 7th at 7:00 pm

May Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Joyce & Norman Mize May 2

Happy Birthday to:

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 Mitchell-Ayers May 25
Mackenna Mitchell-Ayers May 25



Dear Bethany Friends,

How blessed I am to have people that care during the time that I have not been up to par. Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, and visits. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the beautiful flowers and all the delicious food.

May God continue to be with each of you and Bethany Church.

Love in Christ,

Diane Long Bullis

Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette	Jack Cook	Shannon Russell
Faye Campbell	Polly and Dick Wilson	Shelvia Russell
Frances Nolan	Teresa Wilborn	Mary Moore
Layla Benoklen	Tiffany Tauchren	Barbara Cousins
Ida Whitney	Jean Berry	Pat Kennedy
Rachel Poteat	Christy Lutterloh	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Jeremy Harden	Eleanor Thompson	Pete Campbell
Anne McDaniels	Nancy Sutton	Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton	Norma Proctor	Levi Byrd
Stewart Dillard	John and Ann Sutton	Ruth Younts
Ben Johnson	Peter Slater	Diane Bullis
Diane Miller	Joey Leake	



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