



John's Journal

Well, it appears that summer is upon us. With temperatures in the 90s the past few days, we seem to have jumped right into summer without much spring at all. But the

changing of the seasons is a great reminder of the miracle of nature and how blessed we are to live in this beautiful world.

Of course, the past several days has brought us reports on the news each day of devastating storms across the middle of our country. I heard today that so far this year there have been well over 500 tornadoes reported across the country. This is unprecedented.

The issue of climate change is one that has become political and divisive, when it should be an issue that unites us as a country to do all we can to take care of this home that God has given to us.

As polar ice caps continue to melt at a record pace, as the frequency of tornadic activity increases, as the strength of hurricanes continue on the rise, we have to look at the science of climate change and realize that we need to take action now in order to slow down this trend and to avoid further catastrophes.

Climate change should not be a political issue. Science is science and reality is reality. God has given us dominion over our world and we are not living up to those responsibilities.

We must continue to increase our reliance on alternative energy sources - wind, solar, and others. We must continue to find ways to limit our use of fossil fuels that cause damage to our atmosphere. And we must continue to rely on science to lead us to solutions to our problems.

I realize that there may be some of you who disagree with me on this issue, and that's OK. We all don't need to agree on everything. But it is a concern that is troubling to me, and one that I believe we all need to take to heart.

As the temperatures remind us that we are in the summer months, it also brings us to a time of rest and relaxation and vacation time.

As is my custom, I will spend the last week in June in Montreat attending the annual Worship and Music Conference. As I say each year, this is where I go to get my soul filled - to recharge my batteries, and to renew my energy. I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to attend this conference, and I hope that I can continue to utilize what I learn there in my ministry here at Bethany.

July will see Debbie and me travel to Minneapolis to visit daughter Jackie and son-in-law Tave. We certainly look forward to this time with family, and a time of rest and relaxation. I will also have some time off in August, which will include my annual Atlanta Braves weekend!

So, with time away for continuing education and vacation, with our summer study series *Feasting on the Word*, with our *The Grill and the Gospel* series and other things going on, it is shaping up to be a very busy summer, but one with many opportunities for growth and health.

You will notice in the article elsewhere in this newsletter about summer worship plans, some changes in our worship for the summer months. I never want worship to be rote - or something we do from habit. And so this summer, you may see us trying some different things. Don't let these take away from your worship experience, but embrace them as a way to enhance worship.

We remember that what we do here is not about us, but is about what we bring to God in honor and praise. I hope you will see these minor adjustments in that light, and that as we worship together, we will all feel the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, let's have a great June. And let us rejoice in our calling as Christ's disciples. As always, it is a privilege to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,

sabbatical

rest | refresh | refocus

The last several newsletters have given you a little introduction to the advance planning that is continuing as I prepare for my anticipated three-month sabbatical, May-July of 2020. The Sabbatical Support Group (Helen Brown, Ron Kimrey, Sandy Russell, and Tracey Troxler) met several times over several months spanning the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. There was much work involved in getting the proposal and application for the Lilly Foundation grant. According to the instructions and information, recipients will not be notified until late August. Fingers are firmly crossed!

As a way of further keeping you informed, over the next few months, I will continue to share in this space the responses to one of the narrative questions that is included in the application. So, here is the next question and answer -

Number 6.

6. Describe the congregation's plans for covering the necessary pastoral functions during the pastor's absence, for celebration of the pastor's leave-taking and return, and/or for programs or activities that will serve to renew the congregation as a whole. Up to \$15,000 may be used for such purposes and should be allocated as the congregation deems appropriate. (Note: These expenses should be included in the congregation's budget for the renewal program.)

We are blessed at Bethany that one of our members, Rick Purcell, is a Commissioned Ruling Elder (an official role as defined in the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA)), commissioned by Salem Presbytery as Chaplain of the Graham, NC Police Department. He also currently serves as our Clerk of Session. He would assume all pastoral duties during the sabbatical, including planning and leading worship, preaching, and any pastoral care obligations. He would be compensated in accordance with the presbytery guidelines for CREs.

We would anticipate having a send-off luncheon or reception before the sabbatical begins, and a celebration upon the pastor's return, which would be in the form of a potluck dinner, and a visual presentation about the sabbatical.

It is anticipated that the congregation will be in prayer throughout the sabbatical - both formal and individual. It is anticipated as well, that an appropriate book or Bible study will be offered to the congregation during the sabbatical, that would correspond with the focus of the sabbatical itself. We would invite guest leaders for these events to perhaps give a different face on the study.

Stay tuned. JWJ



Last summer we were treated to a "Walk Through the Daylilies" at the home of Bill and Linda Abplanalp. Bill and Linda have another invitation for us this year. They would like to invite the congregation and friends to help celebrate their **55th Wedding Anniversary** with a party on **Saturday, August 10th** at the Rec Building. More information and details will follow in subsequent newsletters.

Please know that everyone is welcome to stop by Bill and Linda's to see the daylilies any time in June. And we look forward to sharing this special celebration with them in August!

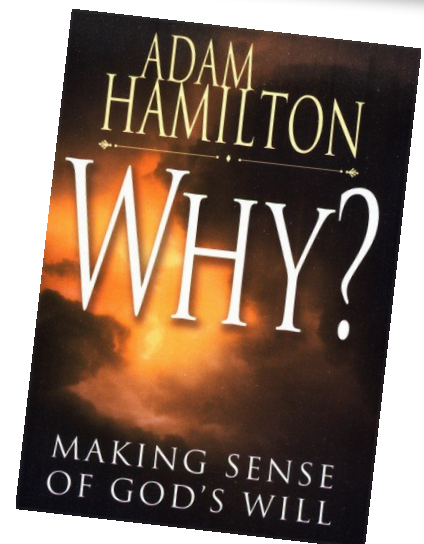
FEASTING on the WORD



Join us this summer for a unique new **Sunday School Series**. This series will use the *“Feasting on the Word”* curriculum, which follows the Revised Common Lectionary scripture passages. Each Sunday’s session will center on the text from which John will be preaching on that particular Sunday. The series will be led by John, with exceptions when he is out of town, and will meet in the classroom across from the offices. **We will gather each Sunday at 9:45 for coffee and refreshments, and will finish up by 10:30.**

The hope for this series is to provide a deeper look at the text for each Sunday, which will hopefully lead to a richer worship experience as the same text is used to build the worship service around.

So make your plans to join us for our **first session on Sunday, June 2nd** - continuing through August for this “new-look” Sunday school learning opportunity.



For our Summer Study Series this summer, we will re-visit a format we used several years ago - **The Grill & The Gospel**, beginning on **Sunday, June 9th**. This summer we will be looking at another Adam Hamilton study, called **Why? Making Sense of God’s Will**. Our three session will look at: Why Do the Innocent Suffer?, Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?, and Why Can’t I See God’s Will For My Life? As with other Adam Hamilton series that we’ve looked at, this is a DVD based series, with discussion and sharing.

So, mark your calendars for **June 9th, July 7th, and August 11th**, as we gather for great food, fantastic fellowship, and engaging discussion on the many “why” questions of life!



JUNE WORSHIP THEMES

June 2nd: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Prison Break: The Paul and Silas Episode

June 9th: Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

God Talk

June 16th: Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8

Divine Majesty and Human Dominion

June 23rd: Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-15a

Sounds of Silence

June 30th: Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

TBA - John away



Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!
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



Summer Worship



PENTECOST SUNDAY

JUNE 9



Beginning on June 2nd, and continuing through the end of August, our worship services may look a little different. Summer brings changes to schedules, adjustment to heat, and the opportunity to try some new things.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be utilizing the *Feasting on the Word* resource for our worship - following the Revised Common Lectionary as we normally do, but including a study aspect during the Sunday school hour.

Also, you will notice that John will not be wearing a robe during the summer. He has done this before during the summer and will return to this more comfortable attire. He will continue to wear appropriate stoles for the seasons.

Another change that we are trying out for the summer will be that John will be preaching from the floor, instead of the pulpit. This gives John some flexibility in preaching, and also creates a better connection with the congregation.

We hope that these minor adjustments will enhance our worship experience for these summer months, and that we can glorify God in new and creative ways!

Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference

June 25-29

This year one of our youth will be attending this fantastic conference at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Virginia. **Reis Smith** will be there along with **Rick and Nancy Purcell**.



Let
Love
Lead

2019 Montreat Youth Conference

Montreat Youth Conference:

July 6-13

Our youth will once again be joining 1000 or so of their friends for the 2019 Montreat Youth Conference. Rick and Nancy Purcell, along with Morgan Troxler and Shelby Smith will serve as adult leaders for **Seth Smith** and **April Troxler**.



**Congratulations to
Seth Smith
Southern Alamance High School
Class of 2019**

**Attending
Western Carolina University
Fall of 2019**

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Jerry Perdue Funeral 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 11:00 AM Worship 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Generosity Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM The Grill and the Gospel 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father's Day 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 11:00 AM Worship 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Feasting on the Word Series 11:00 AM Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montreat Worship and Music Conference (John and Chris attending) 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John on Vacation Fifth Sunday @ Bethany 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day 		

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 May 14th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Jean Payne.
- Shared in joys and concerns of the congregation
- Approved minutes from April stated meeting.
- Heard an update from Rick about Cub Scout Pack, including first awards given out.
- Heard a treasurer’s report from Ron Osborne.
- Heard an update from Personnel Committee (Ben Russell) about plans for nursery worker, including the good news of the hiring of Paige Butts to be our nursery caregiver.
- Heard a report from Ron Osborne about awarding of scholarships from our Scholarship Fund.
- Were reminded of Palm Sunday presentation of *Seven Last Words of Christ* by our choir and guests.
- Were reminded of Shrimp-a-Roo on August 3rd.
- Were reminded of Vacation Bible School, July 20-21
- Heard report from meeting of Salem Presbytery earlier in the day from Chip, Rick, and John.
- Received a quote from new cleaning service for the church. More quotes will be received with decision being made at June Session meeting.
- John shared his schedule for the summer months.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE
RON OSBORNE AND KAREN MAXWELL**



**Bethany
Scholarships
Awarded**

Thanks to the generosity of those who came before us, and laid a strong foundation for the future of students and their education, the Bethany Scholarship Fund was able to award five scholarships this year in the total amount of \$2,880. This represents 80% of the amount earned on the investment, which is the amount that is earmarked for scholarships each year.

This year’s scholarship were awarded to: **Morgan Troxler, Seth Smith, Paige Butts** (granddaughter of Karen Maxwell), **Lindsay Yates** (granddaughter of Foy Bayliff), and **Jordan Crabbe** (granddaughter of Sylvia Hayes).



**memorials
& gifts**

The following gifts have been made in memory of **Levi Byrd:**

The Fellowship Class

mark  your **Calendar**

VBS 2019



JULY 20 AND 21



We are so excited that Bethany has chartered **Cub Scout Pack #141!!** After several months of planning, the first meetings have taken place, and the first awards and badges were presented at a recent ceremony.

A special thanks to our leadership team of Rick Purcell, Nancy Purcell, Glenn Patterson, Zack Wagner, and Jean Payne, who are providing leadership at this time. Other volunteers are always needed, so contact Rick or Nancy if you are interested.

Scouting is so important in the development of young people, and we are thrilled that Bethany can provide a home for these children!

UPDATE ON PROPERTY SALE:

As you may remember, the congregation voted last fall to approve the sale of the property across Main Street from the church, that previously was our rental property.

Things are progressing slowly but surely on this sale. There were zoning issues, and other hoops to jump through, but we are hoping that everything will be finalized by June.

If you have any questions concerning the process, you may feel free to contact Glenn Patterson, who is handling all the real estate matters concerning this property.



Continue to keep **Salem Presbytery** in your prayers, as the proposal presented by the “Dream Team” was approved at the meeting of Salem Presbytery on February 12th.

Things are progressing with the major change being the completion of the work of presbyters **Dianna Wright, Bryan McFarland, and Alfredo Miranda**. Their work will conclude at the end of June.

We move forward in the assurance that we live in the presence of God and that God has a plan for his church.



FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF APRIL 2019	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$51,769.80
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$57,092.28
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$5,322.48

PLEDGE REMINDER:

Summer is here! Schedules get changed around and our usual routines get amended. History shows that giving to the church usually drops off during the summer months due to these changes in routines.

The reality is that the expenses of the church do not take a break! We will have bills to pay and commitments to adhere to. So, we urge all to do what you need to do to keep your pledge up-to-date during the summer months.

As you can see from the above figures, we are doing well in keeping our income and expenses in line. Let's make sure that the next few months show the same thing! Thanks for your generosity and your gifts to the mission and ministry of Bethany.

Welcome to our New Nursery Worker Paige Butts



NURSERY UPDATE:

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of **Paige Butts** as our new nursery worker. Paige is no stranger to Bethany as she is the granddaughter of Karen Maxwell.

Paige will be with us at least throughout the summer, and is on duty in our nursery from 10:30 until after worship.

We also need **nursery volunteers** to assist in the nursery when children are present. The sign-up to help out is in the Welcome Center.

Come by the nursery and say hello to Paige.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Sylvia & Gerald Donley June 14
Tracey & Brandon Troxler June 15
Katherine & Foy Bayliff June 16

Happy Birthday to:

Kasey Dampier June 1
Tracey Troxler June 7
Seth Smith June 8
Judy Holmes June 12
Kim Mitchell-Ayers June 22



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.

Find your place!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Christian Education Opportunities

The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum.

Feasting on the Word (beginning June 2) - Special Sunday school series through the summer looking at the Lectionary passage for each Sunday.



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
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Robert Sykes
Family of Jerry Perdue



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