

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve
bethany press



VOLUME V NO. 7

JULY 2017

John's Journal

I write this in the in-between time between vacation time from which I have just returned, and semi-vacation / study leave on which I will embark the last week of June. Being away necessitates the

preparation of the July newsletter a little earlier than normal, but that's OK.

Debbie and I had a marvelous time visiting our daughter and son-in-law in California. We had some new adventures, and enjoyed a relaxing time away. I had intended on leaving on June 25th for a week at the Montreat Worship & Music Conference, but scheduling cataract surgery on the 26th changed those plans. We now plan to go to Montreat on Wednesday, the 28th and stay for the rest of the week.

Part of the time away will be sermon and worship planning for the remainder of 2017. Summer affords me the opportunity to reflect on my preaching over the past year, and plan for the next.

As you may remember, beginning last September I began preaching from the Narrative Lectionary, as opposed to the Revised Common Lectionary, from which I had been preaching for the past 15 years. The Narrative Lectionary is just as the name implies - it chooses texts which help tell the story of the Bible. I have truly enjoyed this new approach to preaching for the past few months, and I look forward to continuing with the next year which begins in September.

Part of the Narrative Lectionary plan is to preach sermon series during the summer. As you can tell from the information on page 4 of this newsletter, I am planning two sermon series for July and August. Paul is always intriguing, so I am eager to dive into Ephesians in July. And then, following another Sunday off the first of August, I will lead us on an exploration of Revelation.

I think Revelation has gotten a bad rap - as a gloom and doom book with all sorts of dire warnings about what may or may not be coming down the road. I think what we have to remember is that John was writing to these seven specific churches, with their specific problems, sharing the visions that he experienced that he thought said something about their responsibilities.

I think what you will find as we get into Revelation, is that it is, above all else, a book of hope. My prayer is that my preaching over those four weeks will enable us all to realize the hope we have as followers of Christ, and that we don't have to be scared of the book of Revelation.

And then, in September, I will begin anew with the next year of the Narrative Lectionary. Even though this is only my second year using it, the Narrative Lectionary is actually a four-year cycle of readings, as opposed to the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary.

The fall months use stories (narratives) from the Old Testament - this year with readings from Genesis, Exodus, 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Daniel and Ezekiel.

The fourth year of the Narrative Lectionary then focuses on the fourth Gospel, the Gospel of John, following Christmas and up through Easter. And then following Easter, we will move into some of the Epistle readings from the New Testament.

So, you can see that there is a wide variety of readings for the coming year, and I'm excited to find where they will take us in our worship life.

I am so grateful for the privilege of preaching, and for the privilege of being your pastor. I pray that as your summer continues that you will find time to relax, time to have fun, time with family and friends, and yes, time for your church!

I would take this opportunity to remind you that as you miss a Sunday here and there, please remember to keep up with your pledge. Even though we may take summer breaks, the expenses of the church do not! Maybe take this opportunity to set up online pledging which can make your pledge automatically, even if you are away. It's really easy and can be done from our website.

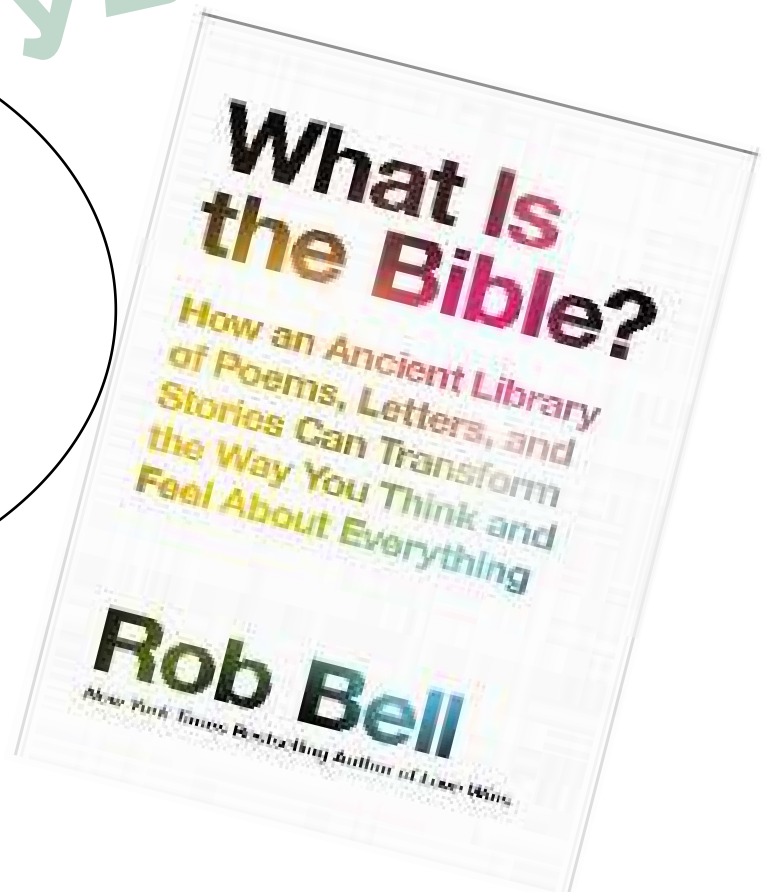
Stay cool in the summer heat, and embrace the warmth of the love of God as it surrounds you and enfolds you!

Grace & Peace,
John



iskysoft

New Book Study this fall
Beginning in September
More details and info
coming soon!





May 29, 1892 was perhaps just another ordinary day in Graham, North Carolina, but it was anything but ordinary for the folks just south of Graham as that was the day that Bethany Presbyterian Church was organized and chartered. As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of this event, we rejoice in remembering our wonderful kickoff celebration in January, and the fabulous day on May 28th as we reunited with former pastor Rev. Norman Whitney, who came and preached on this day closest to the actual anniversary date.

But the celebrations don't end here! See below for what is to come:

Saturday, September 28, 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

David LaMotte

In concert / Bethany Presbyterian Church
 Saturday, September 23rd - 7:00 pm
 Tickets on sale now!
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-lamotte-in-concert-tickets-32860578876>



NEW BOILER UPDATE



July 9th

Ephesians 1:1-14

Look-Alikes

July 16th

Ephesians 2:11-22

The Greatest Gift of All Time

July 23rd

Ephesians 4:1-16

Ant Raft, or Body-Surfing Re-Imagined

July 30th (Fifth Sunday)

Ephesians 6:10-20

Paul's Product Proposal

August 13th

Revelation 4:1-11

The Heavenly Throne

August 20th

Revelation 5:1-13

Flash Mob Messiah

August 27th

Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

Getting Past Tilt

September 3rd

Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

Better City, Better Life

d365

devotionals 365 days a year

Check out the daily devotions online at

www.365.org

Also posted daily to Bethany's Facebook page.



July 2nd:

TBA

TBA

July 9th:

Ephesians 1:1-14

Look-Alikes

July 16th:

Ephesians 2:11-22

The Greatest Gift of All Time

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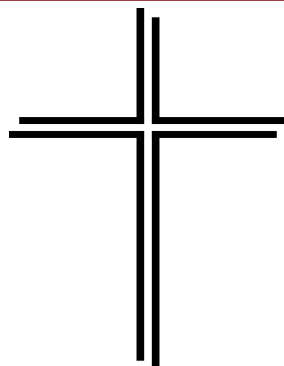
audio sermons
Listen anytime, anywhere

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



Summer Sermon Series

July - Ephesians
August - Revelation



July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30	1
		John and Chris attend Montreat Worship & Music Conference	■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
2 ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
		■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
9 ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
		■ 7:00 PM Session Meeting	■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
16 ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
		■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
23 ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
		■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			■ 6:00 PM Shirmp-a-Roo
30 ■ Fifth Sunday @ Bethany ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5
		■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal				

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)

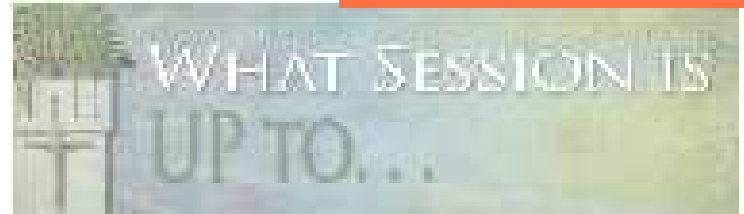
Glenn Patterson

Jean Payne

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Rick Purcell (Clerk of Session)

**The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on June 6th. Here are some highlights:**

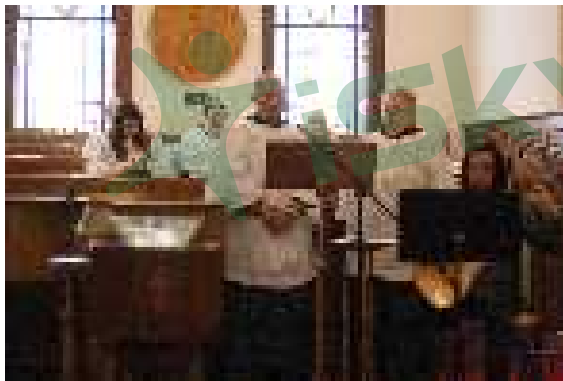
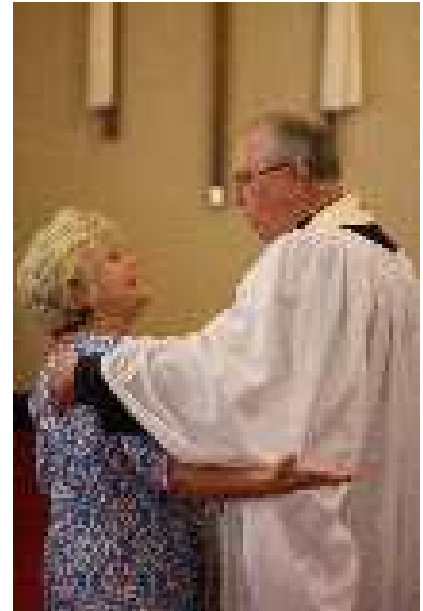
- Heard a devotion from A. J. Campbell
- Continued discussion and book study of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Received a thank-you note from Rev. Norman Whitney
- Received a detailed report from the meeting of Salem Presbytery from commissioner A. J. Campbell
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Approved a motion to use money previously received from sale of property to pay for new boiler
- Heard report about buildings and grounds needs / approved improvements to be covered by Men of the Church
- Heard a report from Scholarship Committee regarding disbursements this year - to Morgan Troxler and Paige Butts
- Received information regarding upcoming supply preachers in John's absence
- Received information from Brandon Troxler regarding dates and info for Vacation Bible School, August 11-12
- Were reminded of T.E.A.M. Covered-Dish Dinner on the 11th
- Heard staff report from Chris Bagley, including his plan to attend Worship and Music Conference in Montreat June 25-July 1st
- Heard staff report from John, with information about his summer plans.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 - 7 PM
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY
GLENN PATTERSON AND KAREN MAXWELL

ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE
COME BY CHURCH OFFICE
LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE!!
CHILD AND ADULT SIZES
\$20.00 EACH (2 FOR \$35.00)
CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARDS



125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MAY 28, 2017





Financial Reports

Report through end of MAY	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$72,329.60
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$72,725.90
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$396.30

LIFE IS NOT
MEASURED BY HOW
MUCH YOU OWN.
LUKE 14:12



**online
GIVING**
easy. fast. effective.

www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving



**ANNUAL
SHRIMP-A-ROO**

**SATURDAY, JULY 29
6:00 PM**

**SPONSORED BY
MEN OF THE CHURCH**





- **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

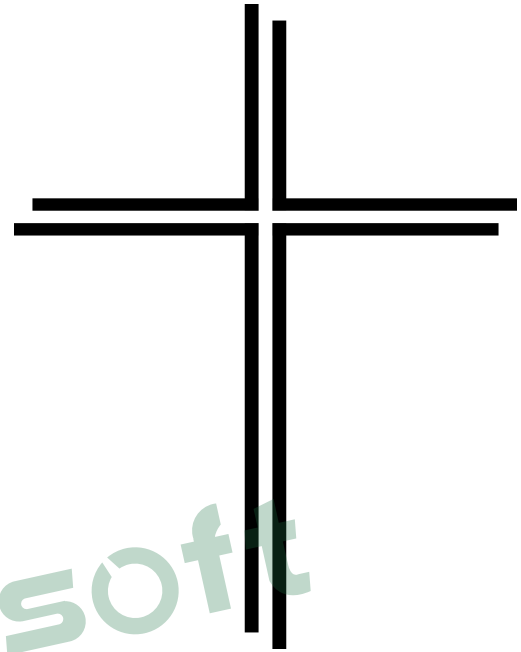


Christian Education Opportunities

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

The Seeker's Class - meets in the church office / currently using The Wired Word curriculum





Sundays @ Bethany

*11 am / worship /
fellowship / music*

July 30th

July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Pat & Henry Flythe	July 1
Helen & Levi Byrd	July 10
Millie & Jay Fuller	July 11
Amy & Dusty Kimrey	July 13
Brenda & Robert Sykes	July 27

Happy Birthday to:

Velna Foust	July 3
Shelby Smith	July 3
Sylvia Hayes	July 5
Janine Osborne	July 5
Tina Patterson	July 7
Xan Wagner	July 8
Diane Bullis	July 12
Tammy Patterson	July 15
Debbie Johnson	July 17
Sylvia Donley	July 20
Jerry Perdue	July 20



Bethany Prays

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



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