



John's Journal

Well, June has been an interesting month as I have continued to recover from my knee surgery. Things are progressing as they should and every day seems to be a little bit better. I go back to see the surgeon on July 3rd

so that he can check things out, and I am assuming that I will start physical therapy soon thereafter. I know that will be tough, but I keep thinking about what's on the other side and look forward to that!

As I write this article, I am looking forward to spending the last week of June once again in Montreat at the Worship & Music Conference. This is an annual gathering of pastors, music directors, choir folks, and other interested people who spend a week in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina singing, worshipping, playing instruments of all kinds, and enjoying God's creation. I also enjoy the fact that this is truly an intergenerational event. From the angelic children's choir, to the middle school and high school choirs, to the adult choir, to the high school and adult chamber choirs, to all the different skill levels of bell choirs, to the musicians of all types, it is truly a glorious experience.

By no stretch of the imagination am I a singer. But this is one time I can sit in the back of the bass section (hiding) and sing with gusto with 500 of my closest friends! My week in Montreat always renews my spirit, refreshes my soul, and offers me new ideas to help make our worship here at Bethany a true example of our praise to God.

July arrives with the anticipation for Debbie and me of returning to Minneapolis to visit our daughter and son-in-law. Jackie and Tave are presently in the midst of moving from California to Minneapolis, and we look forward to spending a few days with them later in July.

July will also mark the final two Sundays of the sermon series that I am preaching on *The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion, but Good Religion*. I have really enjoyed digging into the various topics around this theme, and I have appreciated the very positive comments that I have received from you. Some of the issues are challenging to all of us, as we struggle in our on-going quest to be the disciples that Christ wants us to be. But we keep plugging away and hopefully will be able to find

some answers as we tackle our quest together. I enjoy the opportunities each summer to offer some different sermon series.

And I look forward to August and a new series on the Ten Commandments. As you can see from the next page, the title is *Game of Stones: Old Words, New Perspectives*. It will be interesting to see where this takes us!

As I write this, our denomination is in the middle of the 223rd Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Every two years our church gathers, with commissioners (ruling elders and teaching elders) from every presbytery across our country, tackling the important business of our church.

Much emphasis this year is being placed around the reports of three entities formed to consider the future of the church - specifically governance and structure. The Way Forward Commission, the All Agency Review Committee, and the 2020 Vision Team, all presented reports to the assembly on Sunday, with recommendations going to committees and then coming back for assembly voting later in the week.

It was also gratifying to see the work of the committee on which I have been serving, looking at the future of Christian Education in the church in the 21st century, also give its report to the assembly on Sunday. Its recommendations also now go to a committee and then - if approved - will come back to the whole body for a vote.

I love my church and I am always gratified to see it working as it should. We may not all agree on every issue that is voted on, but we can be certain that all sides of every issue are fully heard. Having been a commissioner to a previous assembly (2012), I know this for a fact.

Let us continue to keep our church - national, regional, and local - in our prayers, to the end that the message of Jesus Christ is clearly communicated to a hurting and hungry world.

Have a great summer!

THE ANSWER TO

BAD RELIGION

IS NOT

NO RELIGION

A GUIDE TO

GOOD RELIGION FOR SEEKERS,

SKEPTICS, AND BELIEVERS

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

July will see us complete our first Summer Sermon Series: ***The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion***. Using the resource by author Martin Thielen as a guide, John will finish up this unique series with these topics:

July 8th: The Answer to Division is Community

July 15th: The Answer to Passivity is Passion



GAME OF STONES

Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments
August 2018



Sunday, July 15th - 6:30 pm

Technical difficulties caused us to watch our July movie (Spitfire Grill) in June. And so we will watch "Leap of Faith" in July!

Join us on the evening of Sunday, July 15th in the Fellowship Hall for great fellowship, an amazingly entertaining and thought-provoking film, containing some fabulous gospel music, and a great time with your Bethany family. There will be popcorn and drinks to enjoy during the movie. We are recommending that you bring your own lawn chairs to sit in, as the chairs in the fellowship hall were not made for sitting and watching a movie! Bring a friend!





**Please welcome new members
Helen & Bill Brown
who joined our Bethany family on June 17th!**

Congregation Votes to Sell Property

At a duly called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 3rd, the congregation voted to approve the recommendation of the Session to sell the property owned by the church directly across Highway 87 (Main Street) from the church. This property includes the house that had been previously offered as rental property, and the large vacant lot. The sale also includes the adjacent property owned by the Patterson family. The sale is contingent on obtaining access to sewer and water at the rear of the property, which involves either the three parties involved (buyer, Patterson, Bethany) together purchasing a small piece, or obtaining easement rights through this small tract. This is being worked out now.

After many years of renting the property, the last few of which were filled with late, partial, or no rent payments, the Session made the decision to pursue the sale of the property. Many thanks goes to Elder Glenn Patterson for his time and energy devoted to the real estate side of this issue.

Once the sewer and water issue is resolved, the congregation will make a final vote on the sale. Stay tuned!



JULY WORSHIP THEMES

July 1st:

TBA

TBA

July 8th:

Ephesians 4:25-32

The Answer to Division is Community

July 15th:

Revelation 3:15-16

The Answer to Passivity is Passion

July 22nd:

TBA

TBA

July 29th - Fifth Sunday:

Mark 4:35-41

Name Your Hurricane

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



SHRIMP A ROO

Saturday, July 28th

6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by Men of the Church



July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "Jesus for President" Book Study 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "Jesus for President" Book Study 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship ■ 6:30 PM Summer Movie Series 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "Jesus for President" Book Study 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ John on Vacation ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ John on Vacation ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ John on Vacation ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ John on Vacation ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:00 PM Shrimp-a-Roo 	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

Your Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt

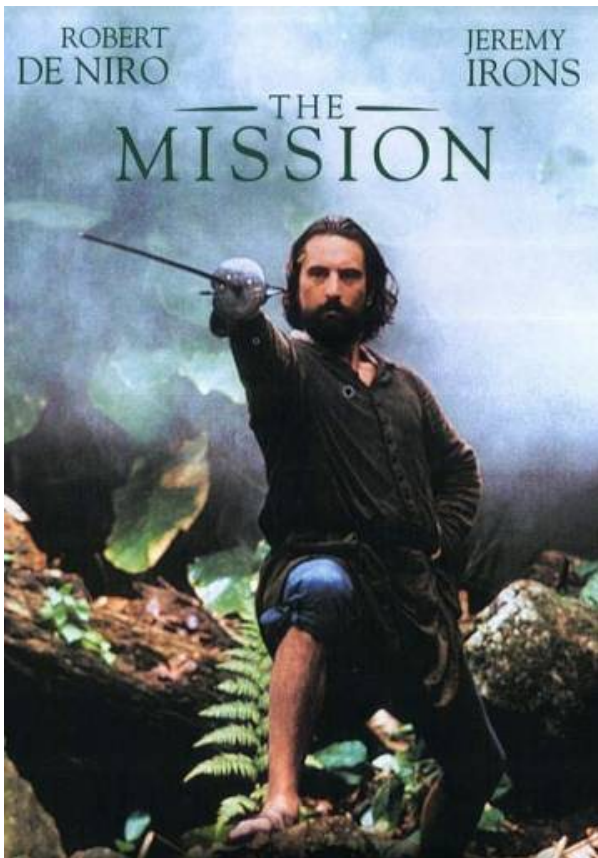
Elders:

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)



Sunday, August 19th - 6:30



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on June 12th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from A. J. Campbell
- Welcomed new members Helen and Bill Brown and heard stories of their faith journeys
- Shared joys and concerns of the congregation
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Heard a report from the May meeting of Salem Presbytery from commissioner Chip Allen and John
- Were reminded of Sundays that John would be away in July
- Approved a proposal for the lease of a new copier for the church office
- Heard a staff report from music director, Chris Bagley, with upcoming plans for our music ministry
- Heard an update on John's knee surgery, and plans to attend Montreat Worship & Music Conference (along with Chris) the last week of June, and some vacation time in July

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY
CHIP ALLEN AND KAREN MAXWELL**



Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri and Rev. Cindy Kohlmann Elected Co-Moderators of PCUSA

New Moderators Want to Celebrate Diversity and Think Outside the Box



Humbled and overjoyed is how the new co-moderators of the 223rd General Assembly said they felt after Saturday night's close election. Appearing at their first news conference, Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann said the last few months have been “an incredible journey” and they are ready to move forward. “We will be surprising and do things in ways the church hasn’t necessarily experienced before,” said Kohlmann. “Some of that will be around the expectations of who should do what. Who should preach? Who should show up at clergy or ruling elder conferences? We want to do things that we feel called to, not necessarily what traditional expectations might want to dictate.”

The pair were among three teams of candidates seeking to succeed Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston of the 222nd General Assembly.

“We thought all of the candidates could do this job,” Cintrón-Olivieri joked. “I appreciated the collegiality, love and hope that was shared across the teams. It was a good journey and we appreciated the opportunity to stand with them. I thought it was a fair process and spirit led. If it took four ballots, that’s what the spirit wanted.”

Cintrón-Olivieri, who grew up in Puerto Rico, is an ESL teacher and ruling elder at First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami. Kohlmann currently serves as Resource Presbyter for the presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England.

Introduced by a mutual friend, the newly-elected pair believe their different backgrounds will serve them well as they look to address diversity in a changing church.

“Music is one of the places where we can be diverse and united,” Kohlmann said. “We have immigrant communities in the greater Boston area. When I worship with them, it doesn’t matter that I don’t understand a single word we sing together,” she added. “Part of celebrating diversity is helping people experience it in a way that is joyful and life giving.”

“There is a way to do worship that might be simpler than we think,” said Cintrón-Olivieri. “Perhaps an interpretation system or presenting music and preaching in a different language. We just need to find the people to do that.”

Both believe placing more emphasis on people and less on buildings will make a difference.

“If the church building wasn’t there, there would not be a place for community to be together,” said Kohlmann. “It’s not about leaving the building behind. It’s about not making the building the first thing we talk about in annual reports. It’s what we use to do the mission of Christ.”

Cintrón-Olivieri says churches are using their facilities in new ways to connect with communities.

“We need to think outside of the box and look for ways to make the building the center of community,” she said.

“We need to determine how it can be a safe space where people gather for worship on Sundays and for other purposes during the week.”

Both have embraced what the church is doing to welcome immigrants to the United States and believe it is a “rich blessing” for the PC(USA).

- from pcusa.org



REPORT THROUGH END OF MAY	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$64,046.79
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$67,070.21
YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$3,023.42

GENEROSITY:

GIVING • GOING • GROWING



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.

Summer schedules with vacations, weekend get-a-ways and such, means that church attendance can be sporadic. But that doesn't mean that the expenses of the church go away. They remain constant! Please, as you are making summer plans, plan ahead to ensure that your financial commitment to Bethany remains up to date.






- **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

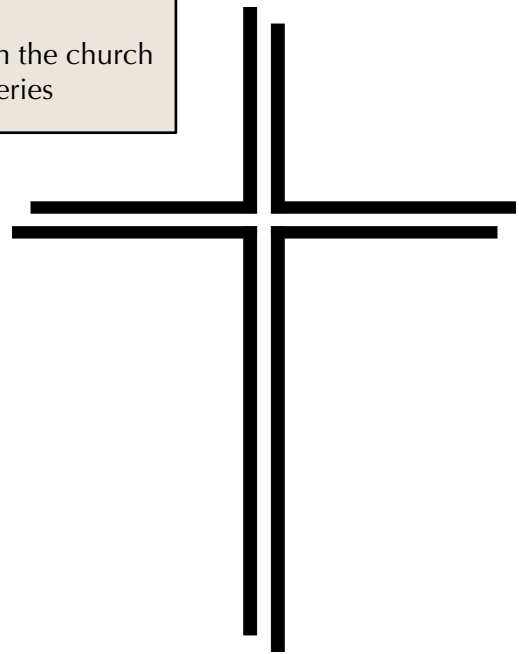
Adult Ministry



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



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:

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



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love learn serve

