

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve
bethany press



VOLUME V NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2017

John's Journal

Aren't reunions fun?! I've been to several of my high school reunions, and it's always fun to catch up with old friends (and they're getting older all the time!), and reminisce about good times we had back in the

day. I must say that I haven't been back to any of my college class reunions, but my Class of '79 friends from graduate school at PSCE basically have a reunion every year when we gather at the APCE conference. As our 40th class reunion nears in 2019, we are planning on a big class trip to celebrate. Yes, reunions are fun!

Throughout 2017 we have been celebrating and anticipating Bethany's anniversary and the reunion we get to have this month! We kicked the year off in January - remembering our history and celebrating our past. We uncovered many of our artifacts and established the "Bethany History Room" so that our past can be preserved for future generations.

In May we welcomed former long-term pastor Rev. Norman Whitney to our pulpit as we observed the anniversary of the actual birthday of our church, May 29, 1892. We worshipped together and gathered for great fellowship and food at the informal luncheon following church.

And now we anticipate the culmination of our year-long celebration at the end of September. And what a celebration and reunion it will be! As noted in other parts of this newsletter, on Saturday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm we will welcome noted singer/songwriter/author/activist David LaMotte who will present a concert here for Bethany and the community. David is well-known in Presbyterian circles, as well as broadly known - not only for his music, but for his commitment to peace and justice. You can search for him on YouTube to get an idea of his music. There is no cost of admission to his concert, but there are costs involved in getting him here, so donations will graciously be accepted at the door. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Even though there is no charge, we do request that tickets be reserved in advance - just so we can have an idea of how many will be attending. These tickets can be reserved through our website, or go to www.eventbrite.com, and

search for David LaMotte.

David has performed literally all over the world, and we are so fortunate to have him here at Bethany.

Our celebration and reunion continues full force on Sunday, September 24th. We are truly blessed to be able to welcome to our pulpit, Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, who currently serves as Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA). J. Herbert's schedule and responsibilities take him all across our denomination, and indeed, the world, and that he is able to be with us here at Bethany is truly remarkable. I have had the privilege to hear him preach on numerous occasions, and friends, we are in for a treat! He is one of the most dynamic preachers I have ever heard, and I know he will bring us a message that we won't soon forget!

Following worship, our celebration and reunion will end with a luncheon feast in our Fellowship Hall. Again, reservations are requested, so we can give an accurate number to our caterer. You may either call the church office, fill out the form online, or fill out the form on page 6 of this newsletter, and send it to the office. This needs to be completed no later than Sunday, September 10th.

There is lot going on and a lot to celebrate! We rejoice in the 125 year history of this little corner of God's kingdom. We rejoice in the foresight and vision of those who saw the need for a community of faith in southern part of Graham. We rejoice in the stewardship of those who laid the groundwork and the foundation for the Bethany that we are a part of today.

And we rejoice that we can gather as God's people to worship together, listen to great music together, have fellowship and dine together, and remember good times together.

Reunions are fun! Let's make this one a celebration for the ages!

Grace & Peace,

John



David LaMotte

“charm, stories, humour,
insightful songs, sweet voice
and dazzling guitar ability.”

- *BBC Radio Belfast*



Photo by Rodney Smith

In concert / Bethany Presbyterian Church / Graham, NC

Saturday, September 23rd - 7:00 pm

Tickets available now!

There is no cost for tickets but tickets are required for admission. Credit cards accepted at the door.

Use the URL below or search for David LaMotte on Eventbrite

Donations will be received at the door, with a suggested donation of \$20 per person.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-lamotte-in-concert-tickets-32860578876>

www.davidlamotte.com





**125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION WORSHIP
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - 11:00
J. HERBERT NELSON, PREACHING
STATED CLERK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**



Growing
Stronger

Growing
Deeper

Reaching
Higher

bethany presbyterian
125th Anniversary
1892-2017



Isaiah 40:31

... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

RSVP

répondez, s'il vous plaît

The culmination of our 125th Anniversary Celebration is here! Special invitations have been mailed out, and you should have received yours. If you didn't receive one, or know of someone who needs to be on the invitation list, please let Tina Patterson know ASAP.

So we can have an accurate count of how many will be attending this final celebration luncheon, please RSVP once you get your invitation. Or, you may fill out the form on page 6 and send it to the church office, or, you can go to our website, and fill out the form there. Here's the link to the reservation page: <http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/anniversary-celebration.html>.

We have a lot to celebrate and this will be a fabulous culmination to our year-long celebration. Get your reservations in now!





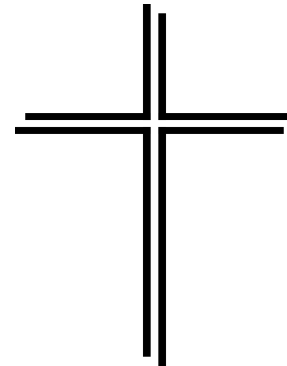
September 3rd:
 Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5
Better City, Better Life
 September 10th:
 Matthew 18:15-20
The Unhackable Key
 September 17th:
 Matthew 18:21-35
Forgiveness Fitness
 September 24th:
 TBA
 TBA - Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, preaching

d365
 devotionals 365 days a year

Check out the daily devotions online at

www.365.org

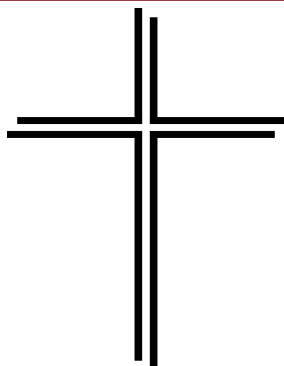
Also posted daily to Bethany's Facebook page.



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



Why CHURCH?

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS SEASON 2017
OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 6

The theme of our 2017 Stewardship Emphasis Season is "Why Church?" The focus for each of the four Sundays is below:

October 15: *Why Church? Reason One: Community*

October 22: *Why Church? Reason Two: Real People*

October 29: *Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors*

November 6 - Stewardship Dedication Sunday: *Why Church? Reason Four: Money Matters*



125th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017
(This form available online at
<http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/anniversary-celebration.html>)

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Yes, I (we) will attend

_____ No, I (we) will not be able to attend

Total Number of people attending: _____

Please list the names of everyone attending:

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER
THAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

**The Church Office
Will be Closed for Labor Day
Monday, September 4**

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
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 August 8th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Brandon Troxler
- Continued discussion and book study of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan Gray
- Received a thank-you note from Morgan Troxler and Alondra Mendez.
- Received with regret a letter of resignation from the Session from Sherrie Moore
- Heard a financial report from Treasurer, Ron Osborne
- Approved a motion to sell the rental property as soon as possible
- Received an update on plans for anniversary celebration in September
- Were reminded of upcoming book study beginning at the end of August
- Received information concerning upcoming meeting of Salem Presbytery on Saturday, August 12th
- Heard staff report from Chris Bagley, announcing plans for a choir retreat in October to Lake Junaluska
- Heard staff report from John, with information about his summer plans.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
7 PM

ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER
RON OSBORNE AND JEAN PAYNE

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



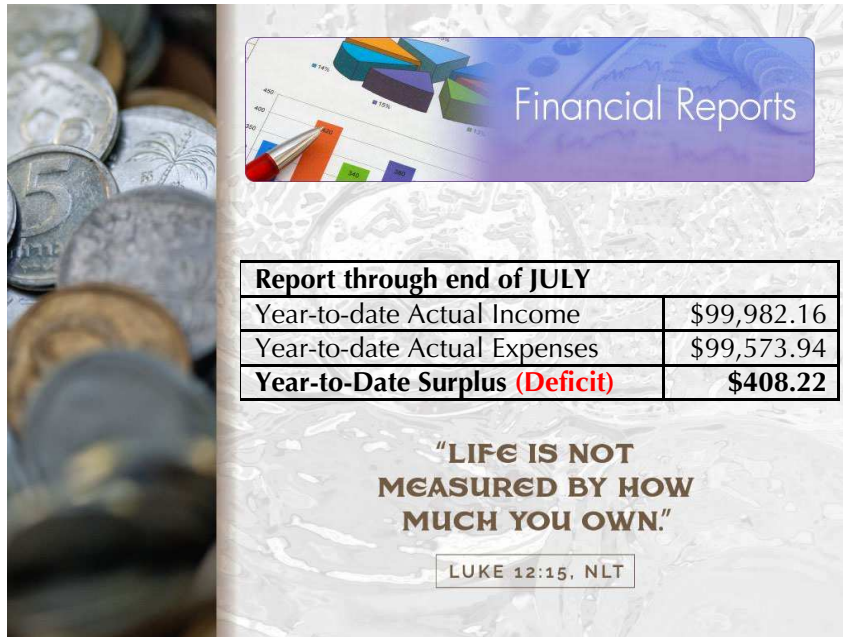
FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!
DON'T MISS OUT!!



September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>Blessing of the Backpacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "What Is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>4</p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "What Is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Circle #1 ■ 7:00 PM Circle #3 ■ 7:00 PM Circle #4 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Session Meeting 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "What Is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM David LaMotte Concert
<p>24</p> <p>125th Anniversary Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:45 AM Sunday School ■ 11:00 AM Worship / with J. Herbert Nelson, preaching ■ 12:30 PM Anniversary Celebration Luncheon 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM "What Is the Bible" Book Study 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>





Financial Reports

Report through end of JULY	
Year-to-date Actual Income	\$99,982.16
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$99,573.94
Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$408.22

"LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY HOW MUCH YOU OWN."

LUKE 12:15, NLT



online GIVING
easy. fast. effective.

www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving



IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE?

IT'S EASY DURING THE BUSY SUMMER SEASON, WHEN SCHEDULES ARE DIFFERENT, TO GET BEHIND ON YOUR PLEDGE. THE EXPENSES OF THE CHURCH CONTINUE, HOWEVER. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE CURRENT WITH YOUR PLEDGE, SO THAT THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF BETHANY CAN CONTINUE UNABATED. YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED!





- 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

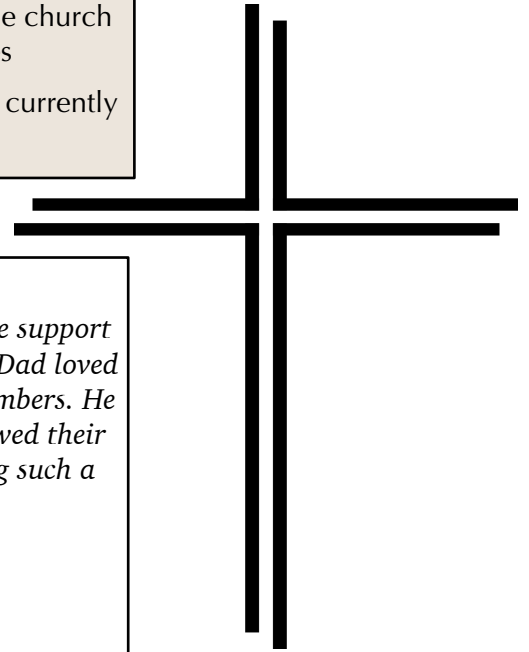



Christian Education Opportunities

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

To the congregation at Bethany,

Heather and I want to thank everyone for the support and caring during dad's illness and passing. Dad loved Bethany and all of his friends and fellow members. He would be pleased to know how everyone showed their concerns and were there for his family during such a sad time.

We love everyone at Bethany,

Bless you all - Alan and Heather

Christel Schappacher would like to thank the Bethany church family for all the cards, prayers, and food she received during her recent stay in the hospital.



Presbyterian Women Circles Resume in September!

Circle #1: Monday, September 11th at 10:00 am (changed from usual 1st Monday due to Labor Day)

Circle #3: Monday, September 11th at 7:00 pm

Circle #4: Monday, September 11th at 7:00 pm

September Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Shirley & Tommy Lane	September 15
Kim & John Snyder	September 18
Janine and Ron Osborne	September 22

Happy Birthday to:

Barbara Sinclair	September 11
Amy Kimrey	September 13
Kim Snyder	September 13
Hailee Thomas	September 16
Sandy Cook	September 18
Katherine Bayliff	September 19
Kim Davis	September 23
Nancy Purcell	September 26
Glenn Patterson	September 29
Jay Fuller	September 30



Bethany Prays

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



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