



## John's Journal

Unless you've been living under a rock, you are well aware that there's an election coming up in a few days. I would be willing to bet that there's not too many of

us who have seen such interest and campaigning and ugliness in a mid-term election year. I know I haven't.

Why do elections have to be so demeaning and hateful? How have we gotten to the point where PACs and special-interests have taken so much control over elections that we are hard-pressed to know fact from fiction?

If you know me, you know it's not hard to figure out which side of the political spectrum I fall. But I rejoice in the fact that there is diversity in our country and that it is possible to disagree about things and still love each other. I just wish that we could return to a time when civility was the cornerstone of our debate, and where ideals and principals were our guiding forces instead of rancor and name-calling.

At the time I sit and write this, I have already voted. And I am well aware that many of you will vote for different candidates than me, and that's OK. I will just pass on my criteria for choosing a candidate for whom to vote.

I do not choose a candidate based on political party. I don't care if they are a Democrat, Republican, Independent, Green Party, Libertarian, or anything else. I base my choice on how the candidate fits in with my ideals and beliefs. How does this candidate's life and career fit in with how I see we are called to live as Christ's followers? Does this candidate follow Christ's mandate to care for the least, the lost, the lonely, the poor, the immigrant, the widow? Does this candidate try to follow Christ's mandate to be inclusive to all in our society? And maybe, biggest of all, does this candidate tell the truth?

As you go to vote on the 6<sup>th</sup>, if you haven't already in early voting, I would encourage you to ask yourself those questions regarding the candidates you are considering to vote for. And then vote!

Yes, vote! No matter who you support, no matter where you land on the political spectrum, vote! As citizens of this country we have a duty to participate in the process - even if sometimes our efforts feel futile. Vote. And then as good citizens, we live with the results, even if we are disappointed by them.

And for goodness sakes, don't let the political ads on TV sway you one way or the other. They are all pretty bad and tell you little about what the candidate stands for, but more about how bad the other candidate is. If you really want to learn what a candidate stands for, go to their website and read about who they are and what they are about. Don't depend on outside forces telling you what you're supposed to think about them.

By the time you read this, our 2018 Stewardship Season will be over. It has been a wonderful month as we have considered Micah's mandate to do, love, and walk. I have been gratified by your kind words following each Sunday's service.

And I look forward to having my friend and colleague Rev. Steve Scott preach on the 28<sup>th</sup> for our Consecration Sunday. I was heartened by the fabulous conversation we had with Steve on October 22<sup>nd</sup> as he met for dinner with the Session, the Generosity Team, and staff. The conversation covered many different topics, and was uplifting and gratifying. It was the type of conversation I which we had more opportunities for. I think we would all be better off for it.

Thanks to all who have made October such a great month . . . from planning and carrying out our stewardship season, to collecting for our Clean-Up Bucket Collection, to gathering for our Bible study each Tuesday night, and for answering God's call to serve in this congregation. Please know you are all loved and appreciated. I am grateful to be your pastor!

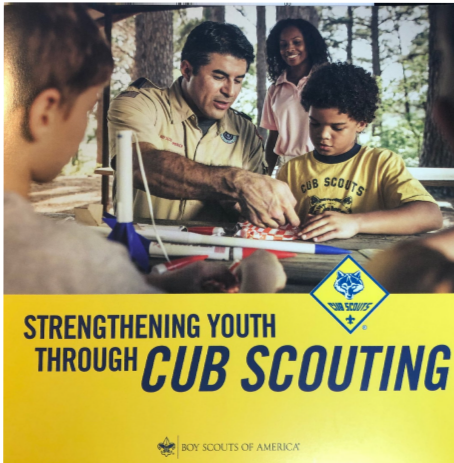


Thanks to all who helped make our 2018 Stewardship Season such a tremendous success. A special thanks goes to our **Generosity Team: Glenn Patterson, Jean Payne, Rick Purcell and Nancy Purcell**, who will continue to work to ensure the future viability of Bethany Presbyterian. Thanks goes also to **Tina Patterson**, for planning and making sure the Celebration Luncheon goes off without a hitch. And lastly, we thank **Rev. Steve Scott**, for his time, energy, and wise words to us as our guest preacher for Consecration Sunday.

Anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to complete and return a **Pledge Card** to the church, please know that it's not too late! If you do not have a card, one may be obtained in the church office, or call Pam Hurt, our Financial Secretary (she is at the church on Tuesday afternoons) and she can help you with your pledge.

It takes all of us working together to carry out the ministry and mission of Bethany Presbyterian. All gifts are welcome and appreciated!





A few months ago, John was contacted by James Allegretto, who is the Alamance District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, about the possibility of Bethany once again sponsoring a scout troop, beginning with a Cub Scout Pack. Jim subsequently met with the Session, and then spoke to the congregation on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Here's some more information about this possibility for our congregation.

From the scouting brochure we read: **Do Your Best. Have Fun Doing It.** *"The best way to find out what you do best is to do it. Throw a football. Catch a fish. Ride a bike. Set up a tent. Build a Pinewood Derby car. Shoot a bow and arrow. Cub Scouting offers boys the opportunity to see and learn fun, new things that can't be found anywhere else.*

*Cub Scouts are at that magical age where everything is new and possible and, most important, fun. They build things. Play with purpose. Make friends, and work together. The life lessons learned here not only transform today's*

*Cub Scouts into tomorrow's Boy Scouts but also help form a foundation to embrace opportunity and overcome obstacles in life.*

*Cub Scouting is a year-round program uniquely designed to meet the needs of young boys and girls (first through fifth grade) and their families. The program offers fun and challenging activities that promote character development and physical fitness. Family involvement is an essential part of the program, and parents are encouraged to play an active role. Cub Scouting helps parents make the most of the short time they have to impact the lives of their children.*

*Cub Scouts progress from rank to rank, learning new skills as they go. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As Cub Scouts get older and advance through the ranks, the requirements become more challenging to match their new skills and abilities.*

*Scouting certainly has an impact on the community:*

- *A relationship with Scouting can help [Bethany Presbyterian Church] to fulfill its mission and strengthen its outreach efforts.*
- *Scouting provides a unique opportunity to bring stronger service to the community while offering fun and adventure to the organization's own youth and families.*
- *By working together, [Bethany] and Scouting can combine time and other resources that result in stronger, more confident children and more productive families and communities."*

We have a unique opportunity to join together with this organization to provide a place for scouting to grow and flourish in southern Alamance County. The Session is continuing its conversation and is contacting those it thinks have the interest and time to help in making this happen. If you think you would like to be involved, contact John or any Session member.



#### **DIRECTORY UPDATE:**

Thanks to all who have participated in our effort to get a new pictorial directory put together in-house. And a special thanks to Salina Russell for making herself available to take pictures on several Sundays.

As to the latest update: all pictures have been taken. (NOTE: This doesn't mean that it's absolutely too late. With this being done in-house, we can take and add photos anytime we want! Just let the office know and we'll get it worked out.) So, the pictures have been taken and Salina has edited, making everyone look fabulous! She will make these available to the church office, and Joy will begin the process of uploading them into our online database. Once this has been done, they will be printed and placed in your mailbox, or mailed if you desire. We look forward to seeing the results of our project, and to having everyone's updated picture in our new directory!





### Clean-Up Bucket Collection for Hurricane Florence Relief

In just about 2 weeks, you have donated enough supplies to fill 27 Clean-up Buckets, with some left over, which will also be donated. On Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, John and Glenn will deliver these buckets to our new friend David Edwards from Lumberton, meeting half way to transfer our donations. Thanks be to God that we have the resources to make these donations. Continue to be in prayer for our brothers and sisters who continue to recover from these disasters.







# NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

## November 4<sup>th</sup>:

Psalms 119

*Walking Happy*

## November 11<sup>th</sup>:

1 Kings 17:8-16

*On Being Obedient*

## November 18<sup>th</sup>:

Mark 13:1-8

*Keep Watch!*

## November 25<sup>th</sup>:

John 18:33-37

*What Is Truth?*



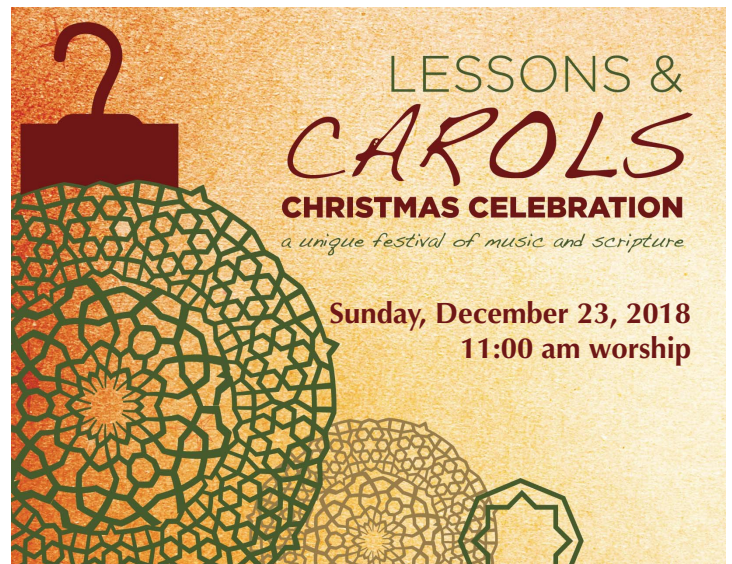
**Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!**  
There are three ways to listen to audio of our Sunday sermons:

- On our website: [www.bethanypreschurh.org](http://www.bethanypreschurh.org)
- On our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)
- Or by going to: [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198)



**Advent is coming!** In just a few short weeks, we will begin our annual journey to the manger through the season of Advent. With familiar carols, the warm glow of candlelight, lighting our Advent candles each week, and many other traditions, we will go to the manger and be blessed! Here's a calendar for the season:

- Week before December 2<sup>nd</sup> / date to be set - Decorating the Sanctuary for the season
- Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - First Sunday of Advent / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent / Service of Lessons and Carols
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



LESSONS &  
**CAROLS**  
**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
*a unique festival of music and scripture*

Sunday, December 23, 2018  
11:00 am worship




*Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service*

*December 24, 5:00 p.m.*

# November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>28</div> <div>Consecration Sunday</div> <div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div> </div>	<div>29</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div> <div>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</div> </div>	<div>31</div> <div>Halloween</div> <div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</div> </div>	<div>1</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div></div>
<div>4</div> <div>Daylight Saving Time ends</div> <div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div> <div>12:00 PM Celebration Luncheon</div> </div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:00 PM Circle #4</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</div>	<div>7</div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>8</div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div></div>
<div>11</div> <div>Veterans Day</div> <div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div> </div>	<div>12</div> <div>Veterans Day (observed)</div> <div> <div>10:00 AM Circle #1</div> <div>12:30 PM Alamance County Clergy</div> <div>7:00 PM Circle #3</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div>Presbytery</div> <div>7:00 PM Session Meeting</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>15</div> <div></div>	<div>16</div> <div></div>	<div>17</div> <div></div>
<div>18</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Thanksgiving Day</div>	<div>23</div> <div></div>	<div>24</div> <div></div>
<div>25</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>	<div>26</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div>7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>29</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div></div>

### **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)*



### **Other Session News and Information:**

- Congratulations to **Nancy Purcell, Tracey Troxler,** and **Ben Russell,** for their election to the Session, Class of 2021, and to **Randy Cousins** who was elected to fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2020. Thanks for answering the call to serve!
- Newly elected officers, as well as current Session members will participate in Officer Training sessions on Sunday evenings, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Service of Ordination and Installation for our new officers is tentatively set for Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- There has been some movement on the sale of the property across the street. We are hoping to have this wrapped up by the end of the year.
- The Session continues to hold each member of the congregation in prayer each month, and covets the prayers of the congregation for the Session's work.

**A REMINDER THAT ALL MEETINGS OF THE SESSION ARE OPEN TO ANY CHURCH MEMBER, OTHER THAN TIMES WHEN DEALING WITH PERSONNEL ISSUES. THE SESSION MEETS EACH MONTH ON THE SECOND TUESDAY.**



### **The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Here are some highlights:**

- Heard a devotion from Karen Maxwell
- Shared in joys and concerns of the congregation
- Approved minutes from September stated meeting and Congregational Meeting
- Heard an update from Glenn regarding selling of the property / some movement and hopefully more action can be taken soon.
- Heard an update on proposal to charter Cub Scout troop / Jim Allegretto will speak in worship on October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Heard a positive treasurer's report from Treasurer Ron Osborne
- Heard an update on stewardship season plans / Session reminded of dinner on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Heard from Chip regarding several property issues
- Heard an update from Nominating Committee and the electronic vote to call a Congregational Meeting to elect officers
- John reported on proposal to participate in the "Clean-up Bucket Collection" to send supplies to eastern North Carolina. Items will be collected for two weeks and put together after October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Brandon and Nancy reminded about the Fall Festival coming up on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm
- Session was informed of Officer Training dates, scheduled for Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> / training for current as well as newly elected elders
- Chip was approved as commissioner to the meeting of Salem Presbytery at Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018  
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER  
JEAN PAYNE AND BRANDON TROXLER**







As we dive head-long into November, we remember our national day of thanks as we observe Thanksgiving Day on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. As we are confronted with the Black Friday blitz, perhaps we should pause and consider some thoughts about this day. The words below are taken from the *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.org](http://www.ministrymatters.org)).

Heading into November, we know that preparations are underway for Thanksgiving celebrations across the country on Thanksgiving Day. The yearly parades and fun events make way for the bounty of food and family gather around household tables. Airports will fill up and grocery stores will be full as everyone tries to make it home for the holidays and their traditional dining fare.

But not everyone has a place to go or someone with whom to spend the day. Not everyone is happy this year, because they are missing a loved one or grieving a loss. Not everyone has the financial means to travel or provide a feast. Some families are painfully divided because of personal or political issues. Other families are struggling to survive financially and will be working throughout the holiday, unable to enjoy time off. Still other families are dealing with difficult health issues and staying close to, or in, the hospital. And sadly, some persons are left uninvited and lonely - in their apartments, nursing homes, or empty houses. Jesus taught that his followers are called to welcome strangers and to care for the widows, the sick and the poor among us.

While commercials would have us believe Thanksgiving Day is the perfect family time, the holiday originated as a time for the whole community to gather. The stories of the first Thanksgiving in America tell about all the families in the community gathering together to share their harvest with their neighbors, the Wampanoag natives who had taught them not only which crops to plant but also how to survive in a new land. If the Wampanoag people had not shared their food and knowledge, few settlers would have survived those first two winters of 1620-1621.

Similarly, the Great Thanksgiving in our churches is open to all believers and to all who are seeking to believe. Giving thanks to God is only the first step in celebrating. We must follow through by allowing God's love to motivate us to invite people we might otherwise pass by to our tables and into our lives. We are called to joyfully share our abundance to help others survive.







#### REPORT THROUGH END OF SEPTEMBER

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$120,998.66
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$120,268.90
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$729.76</b>

#### Ways to Support Bethany Presbyterian Church

1. Place cash or check in the offering place on Sunday.
2. Mail in check to church office.
3. Use your bank's online bill pay to send donation to the church.
4. Set up an Electronic Funds Transfer from your savings or check 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.



#### What Happens Now?

So, October is over and our 2018 Stewardship Season is passed - and hopefully a huge success! But what happens now?

Well, once all the Pledge Cards have been received, Pam Hurt, our Financial Secretary and bookkeeper, will total up all the pledges and other sources of income that will determine our projected income for 2019.

With that figure in hand, our Budget and Finance Committee will put together a budget for the coming year, allocating funds in each of our ministry areas: Worship, Serve, Teach, and Support.

Once a budget is prepared, it will go to the Session for approval. In the Presbyterian system, the Session approves the budget. It will be presented to the congregation for information. The only thing the congregation would vote on is if there is a change in the pastor's Terms of Call, such as a raise in salary.

As was the case this past year, a Narrative Budget will be prepared so the congregation can accurately see how our funds are distributed.

We are grateful for the work of the Session, the Budget & Finance Committee, and especially our Treasurer Ron Osborne, who take seriously the call to be good stewards of our resources.

We have been blessed with the resources to carry out our mission and ministry, and we pray for continued guidance and blessing as we move forward in the years to come.

As always, a note of gratitude to all for your generosity and support of this, your church!



## 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.

**Disciple Bible Study - Into the Word, Into the World** - meets on Tuesday evenings throughout the school year. New members always welcome.

## Disciple Fast Track

—Into the Word, Into the World

Each Tuesday evening (with the exception of the second Tuesday of the month when the Session meets) a group of dedicated learners meets to dive into scripture with engaging discussion and interaction.

The first 12-week unit focuses on the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus. This unit will be completed in early December. After the first of the year, the group will begin another 12-week unit, looking at the New Testament books of Luke and Acts.

Anyone wishing to join the group after the first of the year for the New Testament unit is certainly welcome and encouraged to do so. See John for further information.



**Daylight Savings Time**

**Ends Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Don't be late for church!!!**



### Presbyterian Women Circles November Schedule!

**Circle #1:** Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

**Circle #3:** Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Circle #4:** Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



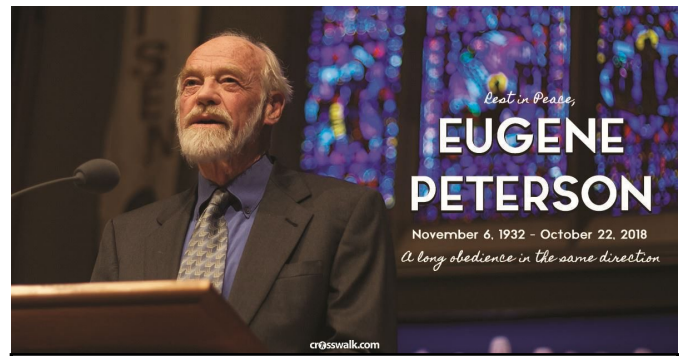
## November Birthdays and Anniversaries!

### Happy Anniversary to:

Abby & Paul Straughan	November 11
Betty & Don Boggs	November 16
Barbara & Guy Sinclair	November 20
Helen & Bill Brown	November 25

### Happy Birthday to:

Randy Cousins	November 2
Reis Smith	November 7
Pat Kennedy	November 9
Susie Hunley	November 11
Paul Straughan	November 11
Joyce Mize	November 15
Guy Sinclair	November 16
Becky Eatmon	November 19
Nancy Sutton	November 21
Karen Maxwell	November 22
John Snyder	November 26
Brandon Troxler	November 28



The church mourns the passing of noted author, scholar, and theologian Eugene Peterson. Peterson is best known for his creative telling of the biblical story in his translation of the Bible, *The Message*.

Here at Bethany we may remember a few summers ago when John preached a sermon series based on the Psalms, using video conversations between Peterson and musician Bono.

It has been interesting to read online comments from folks who have been inspired and comforted by his words. May we continue to hear God speak through the words of this obedient servant.



### ***Bethany Prays***

Bill Faucette  
Faye Campbell  
Shirley Lane  
Ida Whitney  
Rachel Poteat  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Stewart Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Ruby Martin  
Katherine Turner  
Dianna Yates

Family of Ron Kimrey  
Diane Miller  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Levi Byrd  
Katherine Bayliff  
Randy Thompson  
Foy Bayliff  
John & Ann Sutton

Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Ruth Younts  
Alex Thomas  
Susie Hunley  
Bill Abplanalp

**BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1500 S. MAIN STREET**  
**GRAHAM, NC 27253**  
**336.227.4041**

**Email:**

***office@bethanypreschurch.org***

**Website:**

***www.bethanypreschurch.org***

**Facebook:**

***www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian***

**Twitter:**

***@bpresbyterian***

