



## John's Journal

I'm not sure if you know it or not, but there's an election going on! It's hard to miss with the onslaught of TV ads and the yard signs and 24-hour news cycles

with the latest updates on what is happening on the campaign trails of the candidates.

I think a good incentive to vote early would be to somehow make it so that when you voted, then you wouldn't have to see any more ads on TV. I would be first in line!

Yes, we are in the midst of an election season, and also in the midst of a pandemic, which makes voting even more important, with the hope of keeping it safe as well.

Unlike some pastors that we see on the news, I will never tell you how to vote. I will only encourage you **TO VOTE!** Those of you who are friends with me on Facebook know that I never post anything political. Most of you know where I stand politically, but that in no way will affect how I serve as your pastor.

I was reminded recently of the time I was serving as Interim Associate Pastor at the Wake Forest Presbyterian Church. My colleague and friend Rev. John Hartman was pastor. We developed a fast friendship that still remains strong today. I even recently participated in a virtual Bible study with some folks at his church in Pennsylvania.

During the time we were together at Wake Forest, was about the time that the marriage equality question was the hot topic in our denomination. John and I were at different ends of the spectrum in our thoughts on this topic.

But our differences didn't hurt our friendship or our ministry. In fact, we wrote a newsletter article together - kind of a point/counterpoint thing - where several questions were posed and we answered the questions from our own perspectives.

This went over very well in the congregation and served as a prime example of how people with vastly different opinions can disagree but still be friends.

We have to get away from the "my way or the highway" approach. We have to learn to get along no matter who we might support in an election.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will see the culmination of a long election season. I invite you all to be in prayer as this will be as important an election as any we may have seen in our lifetimes. Here are some things I encourage us all to pray for:

- That all who wish to vote will be able to exercise their civic duty safely and securely, and that all ballots will be counted
- That no matter the outcome of the election, that our country will be a place of peace and civility
- That if the election mandates it, that a smooth transition of power be observed
- That all of our elected leaders will look to their hearts so they may serve the American people with compassion and love

I have no idea what we will wake up to on November 4<sup>th</sup>. At least I know that I won't have to endure any more political ads for awhile.

As our Generosity Team met recently to begin planning for the Stewardship Season, they looked at the schedule of worship themes and Tina said, "You're going to preach about peace on the Sunday before election day??"

Yes, I am! There is so much about our nation that is not peaceful right now. We need to look to the Prince of Peace as an example of what it means to live a life of peace - in peace. Pray. And vote. And then pray some more.

Be safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, keep your distance. See you soon!

As always, I am grateful to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,



# IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Norman Morgan Whitney, Sr.



April 2, 1939 - October 23, 2020



COME, YE THANKFUL  
PEOPLE, COME

## STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2020

*Live in Peace*

*Rejoice Always*

*Pray Continually*

*Give Thanks*

*"Live in peace with each other. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-18**

**November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020**

Stewardship during a pandemic is an interesting phenomenon. But as we say every week, the needs of the church continue unabated, and so we must plan for our 2020 Stewardship Season. As you can see from the above graphic, we will celebrate this season during the first four Sundays of November. Having Consecration Sunday on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, makes our theme of Gratitude even more relevant!

Our theme passage is 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18, an excerpt of which can be seen above. Taking four imperatives from this passage as our themes for the four Sundays, we will focus on the themes of: *Live in Peace*, *Rejoice Always*, *Pray Continually*, and *Give Thanks*.

Our Generosity Team (Helen Brown, Glenn Patterson, Tina Patterson, Seth Smith & Morgan Troxler) is making plans for these important four weeks. Our Consecration Sunday celebration may look a little different from what we have done in the past due to Covid concerns, but we will celebrate appropriately and safely.

Our worship services during these four weeks will each highlight one of the four Ministry Areas - Worship, Serve, Teach, and Support, and members of our Generosity Team will present Moments for Mission on these Sundays focusing on these areas of mission and ministry.

Watch your mail for important correspondence that will be coming soon. Please keep Bethany in your prayers as we continue to learn what it means to be a church in the middle of a pandemic.





Dear Bethany Family,

At this writing, we have made it through four Sundays with in-person worship, and things seem to be going pretty smoothly. Thank you to those who have made it to church for adhering to the guidelines and protocols that have been put in place. As always, our goal is to keep everyone safe, and to offer options for worship. Here are some reminders:

- **There will be three options for worshipping with your Bethany family: in person here in the sanctuary, via Zoom online, or via Facebook (and possibly YouTube) live.**
- If you choose to worship in person, here are the guidelines that we will follow:
  - **Masks must be worn at all times.**
  - **Social-distancing** will be observed. Every other pew will be blocked off. We have a beautiful large sanctuary. We can use it all!
  - Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.
  - Offering plates will be placed at the door to receive the offering.
  - As you exit the sanctuary following worship, you will be asked to observe social-distancing guidelines and not congregate in close groups. It's hard not to because we want to visit, but we must remain safe.
  - The service will be on the screen as usual, or the digital bulletin will be available for download to your tablet or smartphone.
- I will preach from the floor so that we can continue our Zoom and Facebook live worship. Special request: if you worship on Facebook live, please leave a comment so that we know you are there!
- **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - IF YOU FEEL ANY UNEASE ABOUT ATTENDING WORSHIP IN PERSON, PLEASE STAY AT HOME!** As much as we would like to see you, safety is our number one concern.

I am so happy that we have reached a point where we have this option to worship in person. I am looking forward to seeing you soon - if not in person then on my computer screen. Be safe, wear a mask, keep your distance, so that we can beat this thing!

Grace & Peace,

John W. Johnson  
Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian Church







**November 1<sup>st</sup> - Stewardship Season I:**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

*Live in Peace*

**November 8<sup>th</sup> - Stewardship Season II:**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

*Rejoice Always*

**November 15<sup>th</sup> - Stewardship Season III:**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

*Pray Continually*

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Consecration Sunday:**

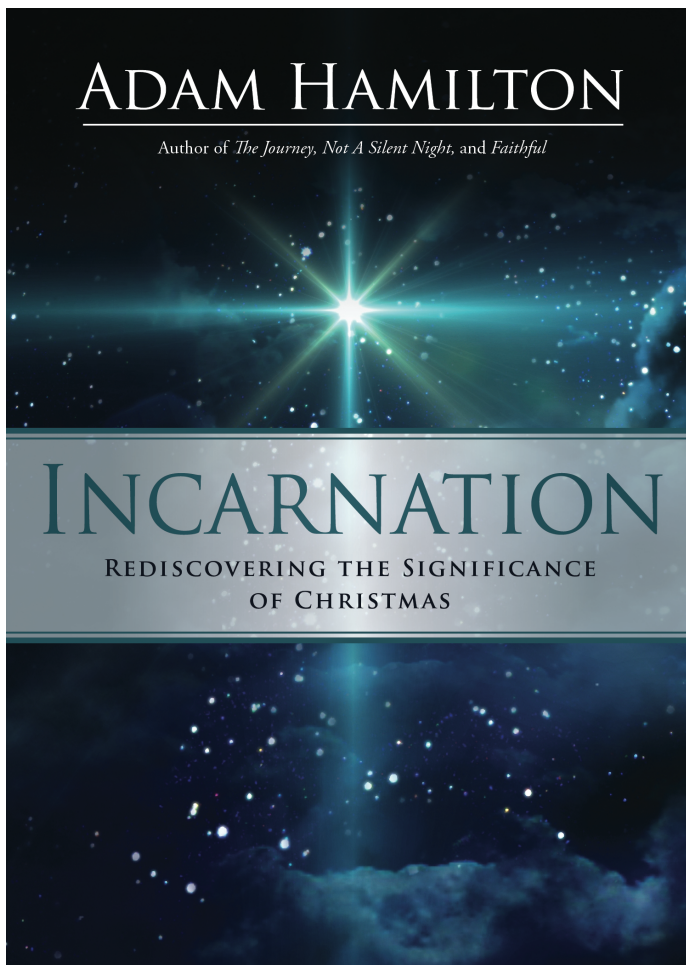
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

*Give Thanks*

**November 29<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday of Advent:**

Luke 1:26-38

*Presidents and Kings*



# INCARNATION

## REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS

Looking ahead to this exciting new Advent Sermon and Study series - brand new from author, preacher, and teacher, Adam Hamilton. The series begins on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> - the First Sunday of Advent, and continues through December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The series looks at all the names we have for the incarnate Jesus. Here's an overview of the series:

- November 29<sup>th</sup> - *Presidents and Kings*
- December 6<sup>th</sup> - *The Savior and Our Need for Saving*
- December 13<sup>th</sup> - *Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic*
- December 20<sup>th</sup> - *The Light of the World*

Much as we are doing right now in our *Digital Church* series, there will be a Sunday morning study of that particular Sunday's theme, using Adam Hamilton's materials as a basis for our discussion. Make your plans to join us for this unique journey through Advent.

# November 2020

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                           | Friday  | Saturday |
|---|--------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| <div>Daylight Saving Time ends</div> <div>Stewardship Season I</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>   |        | <div>Election Day (General Elections)</div>                               | <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)</div>                         | <div>5:15 PM Generosity Team</div> |   |          |
| <div>Stewardship Season II</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>                                       |        | <div>Meeting of Salem Presbytery</div> <div>7:00 PM Session Meeting</div> | <div>Veterans Day</div> <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)</div> |                                    |   |          |
| <div>Stewardship Season III</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>                                      |        |   | <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)</div>                         |                                    |   |          |
|   |        |   |  |                                    |   |          |
| <div>Stewardship Season . . . season Sunday</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div>                      |        |   | <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)</div>                         | <div>Thanksgiving Day</div>        | <div>Native American Heritage Day</div> <div>Black Friday</div> |          |
|   |        |   |  |                                    |   |          |
| <div>Incarnation Advent Series</div> <div>First Sunday of Advent</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship</div> |        |   | <div>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)</div>                         |                                    |   |          |
|   |        |   |  |                                    |   |          |

**Your Church Staff:**

*Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson*

*Director of Music: Christopher Bagley*

*Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby*

*Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt*

**Elders:**

*Bill Abplanalp*

*Chip Allen*

*Helen Brown*

*Randy Cousins*

*Karen Maxwell (Clerk of Session)*

*Tina Patterson*

*Nancy Purcell*

*Ben Russell*

*Tracey Troxler*

*Glenn Patterson (Treasurer)*



**The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on October 13th. Here are some highlights:**

- Heard a devotion from Tina Patterson
- Heard joys and concerns of the congregation
- Received a treasurer's report from Glenn Patterson
- Received an report from Glenn Patterson concerning an offer on our property that is for sale.
- Discussed options for returning to in-person worship services
- Discussed options for Stewardship Season events in light of the pandemic
- Heard info regarding upgrade of church wi-fi and phone system.
- The Session rejoiced in the opportunity to meet socially-distanced, but in person!

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH  
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER  
TRACEY TROXLER AND HELEN BROWN**



At a duly called meeting of the congregation on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, the congregation enthusiastically and unanimously elected **Shelby Smith** to serve as a Ruling Elder on the Session in the Class of 2023. Shelby will begin her term in January. We are grateful for Shelby answering God's call to serve in this important office. Please keep Shelby and the entire Session in your prayers.







We have tried to keep you informed of the many changes taking place with our presbytery, and the summer of 2020 certainly saw much in the way of transition. As mentioned recently, we saw the retirement of Rev. Steve Smith who had been serving as Transitional General Presbyter.

The search committee for a new Transitional General Presbyter has been hard at work and we are thrilled to welcome **Rev. Dr. Barbara Smith** (pictured below) to Salem beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She comes with much experience and glowing recommendations in working with presbyteries in transition. We look forward to her ministry with us here in Salem Presbytery.










The staff of the presbytery continues to adjust to new working environments following the sale of the presbytery office. Laurie Scott, the office manager is working from her home, and Renee Carter, financial secretary, and Peggy Trenchard, administrative assistant, are working in office space provided by Clemmons Presbyterian Church.

The office phone number remains the same and works just like everyone is in the same building.

Continue to offer prayers for our presbytery as we continue in this period of transition and adjusting to new ways of being. And continue to offer prayers for our presbytery committees as their work has increased with fewer staff in place.



Several of you have ventured into the digital world to download our **Interactive Digital Sunday Bulletin** to use during worship on Sunday mornings. Here's what you need to do to join in:

-  Bring your iPad or tablet or smartphone to worship with you (either at home or when we return to the sanctuary).
-  Scan the QR code (you can use your smartphone camera or there are many QR code apps available) that will be in that Sunday's regular bulletin, or on the screen (see below)
-  That will take you to the webpage where our bulletin resides.
-  You probably can just begin using it there, or you may need to download it.
-  It will appear on your screen just like a regular Sunday bulletin.
-  For the hymns, just tap on the hymn title and the hymn will appear on your screen just like you would see it in the hymnbook.
-  Tap on the scripture and it will come up also.
-  If John uses graphics or images during his sermon, those will be indicated as well so you can link to them and then back to the bulletin.
-  The QR code here will link to the bulletin for September 20<sup>th</sup> so you can practice!





## “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

The theme for 2020 Stewardship Season is taken from one of the most beloved of the harvest hymns, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come. It was written by Dean Alford in 1844. This harvest hymn first appeared in with the title, “After Harvest”. It was originally accompanied by the text, *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.* (Psalm 126:6)

When Alford was sixteen years old, he wrote these noble words upon the fly-leaf of his Bible: *I do this day, in the presence of God and my own soul, renew my covenant with God, and solemnly determine henceforth to become His, and to do His work as far as in me lies.*

We look forward to revisiting this hymn as well as some of our other favorites leading up to Thanksgiving like “We Gather Together”, “Give Thanks” and “Now Thank We All Our God”.

**(The following history has been extracted from Wikipedia)**

Alford wrote "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" in 1844 while he was the rector of Aston Sandford church in Buckinghamshire, England. It was first published in *Hymns and Psalms* in 1844 with seven verses under the title "After Harvest". "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" was set to George J. Elvey's hymn tune *St. George's, Windsor* in 1858.

In 1865, Alford revised the hymn, and it was republished in his *Poetical Works* with only four verses. In 1861 there had been a number of unofficial revisions of the hymn, including in "one in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, which led to Alford publishing a footnote in *Poetical Works* stating his disapproval of these revisions that had been made without his agreement. Despite this, Alford revised the hymn again in 1867 in *Year of Praise*.

Alford was a moderate who attempted to keep good relations between non-conformists and the High Church Anglicans in the Church of England: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is commonly found in evangelical hymn books as are Alford's "Forward Be Our Watchword" and "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand".<sup>[4]</sup> The hymn later gained popularity in the United States where it is used as part of Thanksgiving celebrations.

The first verse is written as a celebration of the harvest, calling for people to give thanks to God for it.<sup>[5]</sup> The last two verses are based on the Parable of the Tares, and discuss the last harvest at the Second Coming of Jesus.<sup>[1]</sup>

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher A. Bagley, Director of Music





**GIVE+**Church

**Giving to your church is as easy as 1-2-3**

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.

Due to an increase in fees, we have transitioned to a new platform for online giving to the church. We believe this option will be easier to use, decrease fees that the church pays, and will increase our giving. This giving platform is sponsored by and run through The Presbyterian Foundation.

For those who are currently using our online giving on our website, you may continue to use that for the next little bit, but it will be disabled soon. Pam will be contacting those who are using it, to notify them of this action. The link to the new website is already on the home page of the website.

One added feature - also free - is the option of using an app on your smartphone. Just go to your app store and search for "GivePlus Church" and download it for free. You can then search for Bethany and follow the instructions.

There are two documents that you will find useful in answering your questions about this new electronic giving portal. They are on our website here: <http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving-faq.html>

In this time of upheaval in our normal routines, it is important to remember that the work of the church continues as we continue to live up to our commitments. We are confident that this new platform for electronic giving will be a great enhancement to our stewardship efforts at Bethany.

Please make every effort to keep your pledge up-to-date, either giving by check or using this convenient method of giving online - securely and safely.



**FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF SEPTEMBER 2020**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Year-to-date Actual Income                       | \$101,522.21        |
| Less Year-to-date Actual Expenses                | \$129,314.97        |
| Plus Other Income (from investments)             | \$15,315.79         |
| <b>YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET SURPLUS<br/>(DEFICIT)</b> | <b>-\$12,476.97</b> |

**Scan this QR code for direct access to  
our new Online Giving Platform**





## November Birthdays and Anniversaries!

### Happy Anniversary to:

Helen & Bill Brown

November 25th

### Happy Birthday to:

Randy Cousins

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Reis Smith

November 7<sup>th</sup>

Pat Kennedy

November 9<sup>th</sup>

Susie Hunley

November 11<sup>th</sup>

Joyce Mize

November 15<sup>th</sup>

Becky Eatmon

November 19<sup>th</sup>

Nancy Sutton

November 21<sup>st</sup>

Karen Maxwell

November 22<sup>nd</sup>

John Snyder

November 26<sup>th</sup>

Brandon Troxler

November 28<sup>th</sup>

## Children & Youth Ministries

- **Sunday school for Youth and Children** / Meets on second floor of Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday (as announced during the pandemic)..
- 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. The class will resume when we return to our normal schedules.



### **Bethany Prays**

Christopher Bagley  
Frederica Beatty  
Jean Berry  
Jack Cook  
Bill Faucette  
Christy Lutterloh  
Norma Proctor  
Joan Richardson  
Nancy Sutton  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Eleanor Thompson  
Randy Thompson  
Grace Johnson

Carol Brooks  
Pat Kennedy  
Family of Mary Moore  
Peter Slater  
Diane Miller  
Barbara Cousins  
Ben Johnson  
Joey Leake  
Pete Campbell  
Shannon Russell  
Alex Thomas  
Sylvia Donley  
Family of Norman  
Whitney

Janie Holt Clapp  
Stewart Dillard  
Richie Fishburne  
Jeremy Harden  
Family of Shirley Lane  
Ruby Martin  
Anne McDaniels  
Shelvia Russell  
John & Ann Sutton  
Mike Sutton  
Katherine Turner  
Ida Whitney  
Frank Wrenn

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