One of the many reasons that Bethany is so special is that there are many opportunities for us to worship God together. But in order to be a church that continues to thrive in its ministry, we need to all pitch in and contribute our time, gifts, and talents. This month, we will be handing out commitment cards that will list out ministries that are in need of help. Instead of imploring you to volunteer at church, I thought I’d let some members say why they take part in Bethany's ministries. The following are testimonies by some members (none of whom are elders) who have volunteered this past year…

“I enjoy volunteering at Bethany because it allows me to put what I learn every week at church into action. I find that my faith is truly enriched and brought to a deeper level when I volunteer because it not only allows me to connect with God one-on-one, but also allows me to share and show my faith to the community around me. Faith without works is dead.”

“Bethany has always been a huge part of my life ever since I can remember. I loved coming to Sunday school as a child and looked forward each week to Mrs. Sherri Rudasill's lessons. I love teaching those same stories to the children at Bethany and seeing it through the eyes of a child. It's a joy and blessing to watch them grow in their faith and love for God.”

“I am an introvert. I do not seek out conversations with people for the most part. I am happy just observing. However, being asked to greet on Sunday mornings has really brought me a new feeling. Greeting requires me to socialize and connect with our members. I find the whole church going experience is more rewarding with these simple connections. It definitely makes me feel more a part of Bethany and closer to The Lord.”

“I serve because it not only helps out my church, but it also helps bring me closer to God by being a part of the worship every Sunday.”

“I choose to serve at Bethany because I don't think of our church as a church, but as a family. I grew up here and the majority of the people here either grew up with me or helped me to grow up. Choosing to serve at Bethany didn't feel like a choice or a decision because I just knew that I was needed and wanted in various areas so I stepped up and did it. I guess that was God's way of leading me to be active and involved in a church family that means everything to me.”

As you can see, those who volunteer not only help Bethany continue to be a thriving community, they also benefit in their own walk with the Lord! As commitment cards are handed out, I encourage you to think and pray about volunteering at Bethany. We need each and every one of you to make Bethany as special as it is.

See you in Worship!
The regular monthly meeting of the Bethany Session was held on August 19, 2014. Tommy Pirkle gave the devotion, reading from Mark 9:17-24. He reminded us that when we are tempted to worry about tomorrow, we should remember that God is always faithful and His love for us is steadfast and true. Tommy then closed with prayer.

Rev. Commerford presented Danny Douberley as a candidate for membership. Danny has recently completed the new member class, was examined by the Session and received by Reaffirmation of Faith. He will be formally introduced during the morning worship service on Sunday, August 24.

The June and July financial reports were reviewed and discussed. Annie was available for questions and clarifications.

Rev. Commerford has completed the Elder training for the newly elected Elders. Since Jessica Robinson has never served before, she was examined by the Session and approved to serve as Elder. Jessica’s ordination and installation of all the new Elders will take place on August 24.

During the Clerk’s Report the following items were shared:

- Thank you letters were received from Presbyterian Homes and Columbia Friendship Circle for our recent donations.
- Due to a change in the Book of Order, churches are encouraged to set a quorum for Session and Congregational Meetings. This will be established and recorded at the next session meeting.
- No one from Bethany was able to attend the Presbytery meeting on August 16 due to scheduling conflicts.
- Rev. Betsy Turner will supply the pulpit on September 26. Rev. Turner is the Contract Pastor at Luther Hayes Presbyterian.
- Suzanne Hooper volunteered to fill the pulpit on October 26 when Rev. Commerford will be away.

Ministry Team Highlights

Buildings and Grounds is still in the process of finishing both the tile project in the fellowship hall and the construction of the new playground equipment using proceeds from the BBQ.

Rally Day will be held on September 7 and teachers from this past year will be recognized.

The Refuge Pregnancy Center thanked us for the $341.35 that was received in our recent Baby Bottle Campaign.

The Session decided to tithe $2,000 of the recent gift from the estate of Janie Martin for missions. It was approved to give $500 to Faithworks, $500 to the Newton County Food Bank, $500 to Compassion International’s general fund, $250 to Friends of Forman (Cheryl Burke) and $250 to Campus Crusade for Christ for sponsorship of missionaries, Maciek Michalowski in Poland and Martin Kolton in the Czech Republic.

Communion will be observed on Sunday, September 7.

(Continued on page 3)
A chest freezer has been donated to the church. We will need to decide where it will be housed. The Hospitality Ministry will use it to store bags of ice as our ice maker is no longer working.

Thank you to everyone for their support of a pew Bible drive. We have 115 new pew Bibles and 10 new Youth Study Bibles. They will be ready for use on Rally Day in September. It will be decided at the next meeting what to do with the old Bibles.

The Member Care committee continues to work on the active membership roll. Letters will be sent encouraging those who have been missing from Bethany to reunite with us.

The Session is in the process of coming up with ideas for the Christmas/Joy Gift Program.

The Youth Group’s Fall fundraiser will be a Chili Cook-Off on October 5. The youth will also be involved in making Chrismons, packing shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse, a Road Clean-up Project, and a Halloween Party.

A substitute pool of teachers is needed for the Youth Sunday School Class.

Administrative Chair, Stuart Clive, and Rev. Commerford will serve as contact persons for our nursery workers when they are unable to be here.

The Session decided to preserve the “old” pulpit Bible in a glass case that will be purchased and placed in the library.

Rev. Commerford thanked the outgoing Session members for their faithful service. Incoming Session members were reminded to meet with their ministry teams before our October session meeting and continue to meet with them quarterly.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Commerford. The next regular meeting will be September 16, 2014.

(Continued from page 2)

September is here and with that we start our new Sunday School quarter on September 7! We are very excited about our new adult class! We have enjoyed having the adults of all ages meeting together for the past several months, but it is wonderful to have enough attendance in Sunday School to start a second class again.

As many of you know, I will become Chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee beginning in September. I would like to thank everyone for all their help and support over the last three years and ask you to please continue to support Ken Frederick in his new role as Chair of Christian Discipleship.
## September 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Church Office Closed</td>
<td>Choir Practice—6:30pm</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7   | Sunday School — 9:30am  
Morning Worship — 11:00am  
Communion  
Kids’ Club at Denny Dobbs Park following worship  
Youth Group Progressive Dinner 4:00pm | Girl Scouts—6:00pm  
Boy Scouts—7:00pm | Bible Study—6:00pm  
Choir Practice—7:00pm | Girl Scouts—7:00pm | Barbara Lawson | Dennis Mills |
| 8   | Sarah Cason | Peyton Salmon | Mark Simmons |     |     |     |
| 14  | Sunday School — 9:30am  
Morning Worship — 11:00am  
Youth Group & Kids’ Club 2:30-4:00pm | Session Meeting—6:30pm  
Boy Scouts—7:00pm | Bible Study—6:00pm  
Choir Practice—7:00pm |     |     |     |
| 15  | Chandler Salmon | Peyton Salmon | Mark Simmons |     |     |     |
| 21  | Sunday School — 9:30am  
Morning Worship — 11:00am | Girl Scouts—6:00pm  
Boy Scouts—7:00pm | Fun Seekers—11:00am  
ND Bible Study  
Choir Practice—7:00pm | Girl Scouts—7:00pm |     |     |
| 22  | Anley Douglas | Peyton Salmon | Mark Simmons |     |     |     |
| 28  | Men’s Breakfast—7:30am  
Sunday School—9:30am  
Morning Worship—11:00am  
Newsletter Deadline  
Youth Group & Kids’ Club 2:30-4:00pm |     |     |     |     |     |
| 29  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 30  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

Mark Your Calendars! Starting September 10, Wednesday Night Bible study is back for the program year! This fall, our study is called *How to “One Another” One Another: A Study of Christian Community*. It will be a 9-week study on aspects of a genuine Christian community. You won't want to miss any of these weeks, so be sure to put all the dates in your calendar! If you have any questions, see Pastor Dan or find one of the flyers in the Assembly Room, Fellowship Hall, and both Adult Sunday School classes.
## Monthly Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>September 7</th>
<th>September 14</th>
<th>September 21</th>
<th>September 28</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Worship</strong></td>
<td>Tina Douglas</td>
<td>Suzanne Hooper</td>
<td>Adrianne Mote</td>
<td>Tina Mote</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Acolytes</strong></td>
<td>Hannah Douglas</td>
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<td>Ansley Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liturgists</strong></td>
<td>Tommy McFarlin</td>
<td>Rachel Commerford</td>
<td>Sandi Thompson</td>
<td>Schylar Parris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Chris Mize</td>
<td>Wayne Mize</td>
<td>Sherill Foster</td>
<td>Bill Foster</td>
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<td>Wayne Mize</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Chris Mize</td>
<td>Wayne Mize</td>
<td>Tommy Pirkle</td>
<td>McKenna Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wayne Mize</td>
<td>Wayne Mize</td>
<td>Tommy Pirkle</td>
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<td>Tommy Pirkle</td>
<td>McKenna Smith</td>
<td>Tommy Pirkle</td>
<td>McKenna Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open Bldg.</strong></td>
<td>Annie King</td>
<td>Bill Mote</td>
<td>Buddy &amp; Rae Cook</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Close Bldg.</strong></td>
<td>Lisa Parris</td>
<td>Jessica Robinson</td>
<td>Tracy Pirkle</td>
<td>Wayne &amp; Chris Mize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Prayer Concerns

- Lee Allen
- Sam Ball (Nancy Boyce’s friend)
- The Betzill Family (Friends of the Wagners)
- Maegan Brakehal (step-granddaughter, H. Coggin)
- Charlotte Brandenburg
- Bryan (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
- Mark Burton
- Sarah Cason
- Frank Christian and family
- Lee Coggin (Helen Coggin’s son)
- Buddy Cook
- Betty Davenport
- Tommy Davis (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
- Virginia Davis (Friend of Jeff Hall)
- Henry Fisher (Sarah Cason’s son-in-law)
- Sherill Foster’s sister-in-law
- Tyler Head (Tommy Pirkle’s cousin)
- Shannon Henderson & Family
- Ruth King
- Ed Lawson and Family
- Paul & Lynn Lewis
- Ruth MacEntee (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
- Holly McTaggart (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
- Melisa (Danny Douberley’s daughter)
- Missionaries: Cheryl, Marcin & Maciek
- David Morris and son, David
- Doris Mote
- Susan Mote
- Cody Pirkle
- Charles Rape
- Will Reynudo (Chandler Salmon’s nephew)
- Dayle Robinson (Dee Norris’ daughter)
- Cooper Salmon
- Donald Smith and Family
- Patti Starr
- Betty Thomas
- Brent Tunison (Charlene Rape’s brother)
- Avery White
- Our College Students
- Our Military Men and Women
August has been a very busy month for members of the Bethany family! We have had opportunities to fellowship, which is very important for us to get to know our new members. Bethany is so blessed!

I would like to urge everyone to come to Sunday School. It is very beneficial for our children and they will remember what they learn for years to come.

September 7 will be busy, also. We will have Rally Day and we will celebrate communion. Get ready for our Fall schedule! Fun for everyone!

A big thank you for everyone on the worship team. Thanks for the jobs that you do.

Have you ever made a Chrismon? Well get ready! It is only three months until Christmas! Please save your empty gallon milk jugs, water jugs, and juice jugs. We need to replace the jugs we use each year for the luminaries during the Christmas season.

An unexpected change of plans turned into a split-adventure for the youth group last month! Half went to the Braves game while the rest had fun at Piedmont Park. Fun was had by all!

Youth News — September Calendar

September 7—Kick-Offs!
♦ The Youth Group will have a progressive dinner around Covington as their Fall Kick-off. We will meet at the church at 4:00pm and should return around 7:00pm. Everyone will need approximately $10 to pay for their dinners at various restaurants around town. If you haven’t already done so, please sign up A.S.A.P. with Pastor Dan!

♦ Kid’s Club will kick off the year with a Picnic in the Park on Sunday. So pack your lunch and some play clothes and plan to join us at Denny Dobbs Park directly following worship. Kid’s Club is open to all children ages 4 through 5th grade. However, this will be a family event - so feel free to bring the entire family - regardless of age! Contact Kelly Lewis with any questions.

September 14
♦ Both Youth Group and Kids’ Club will meet from 2:30-4:00pm.

September 28
♦ Both Youth Group and Kids’ Club will meet from 2:30-4:00pm.
On August 24, Jessica Robinson was ordained into the ministry of Ruling Elder and was installed along with Ken Frederick, Joanne Hooper, Tracy Pirkle, and Carolyn Sullivan. Please be sure to keep them, as well as everyone else currently on Bethany’s Session, in your prayers! Here is how each of the elders will focus their ministries for the following year:

- Administration - Stuart Clive
- Buildings and Grounds - Bill Mote
- Clerk - Chris Mize
- Children & Youth (formerly Youth and Young Adult) - Suzanne Hooper
- Christian Discipleship (formerly Christian Education) - Ken Frederick
- Hospitality (formerly Social) - Joanne Hooper
- Member Care - Tracy Pirkle
- Mission & Outreach - Carolyn Sullivan
- Stewardship & Finance - Jessica Robinson
- Worship - Carolyn Peters

Also, thank you to Hal King, Lawson Hooper, Tommy Pirkle, Jessica Salmon, and Barbara Smith, who rolled off session this year. Your time, energy, creativity, and prayers have served Bethany very well!

On August 3, we celebrated the baptism of Cade Wayne Robinson, son of Jimmy and Jessica. It was a special day not only for the Robinsons, but for the entire congregation as we welcomed Cade into the congregation and vowed to raise him in the faith. Please keep Cade in your prayers as he grows up and learns more about God's love for him!

Thank you everyone for your prayers, calls, visits, and cards. Please continue to pray for me as I go on this last phase of my recovery.

Sincerely,
Patti Starr
Our Family Is Growing! Welcome to Bethany!

August was a great month for Bethany as we welcomed seven new members. Congratulations to:

Summer Malone,
John Hunt,
Jim and Gayle Parney,
Angela Gilmer,
Helen Coggin,
and Danney Douberley (not pictured).

All joined by reaffirmation of faith, and we rejoice that they will be a part of our family! Be sure to introduce yourself to them if you have not done so already.