



APRIL 2016

Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Daniel Commerford

Secretary

Annie King

Pianist

Carolyn Peters

Choir Director

Joanna Reesman

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2016

Joanne Hooper

Dennis Mills

Tracy Pirkle

Jessica Robinson

Carolyn Sullivan

2017

Stuart Clive

Joe Lewis

Donald Smith

Sandi Thompson

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“Sunrise for the Son’s Rise”

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

Luke 24: 1-8 *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”*

On Easter morning, I got up, got ready, and made my way out to Bethany for the Easter Sunrise service. Because Easter is so early in the year, it was pitch black on the way to church. In fact, it was so dark that I could not see a thing and had to turn my brights on to make sure I didn’t hit anything while driving there. As we prepared for the service it remained pitch black. A few minutes before the service, it was still pitch black! I even expressed a little bit of concern to some elders about the sun not rising in time for the service. Even as the service began, it was still dark. But slowly, the sun started to rise above the horizon, and things became brighter. Throughout the service, we worshiped the Risen Lord as we watched the day come to life. We heard birds singing, roosters crowing, and watched as the world came to life, just as it does every morning.

Watching the sun rise this year fed my spirit immensely. When I was driving to church, it was really dark. But that darkness did not last. No matter how much it may want to stick around, darkness always gives way to the light. No matter how dark the night can be, the sun always rises in the morning! Seeing the dawn break on Easter morning was a great way for God’s Spirit to remind me about Jesus’ resurrection. Just like the light of the sun pushes out the darkness of the night, the Son’s rising pushes out the darkness of the world, regardless of how strong we think that darkness is. That is the hope of Christ’s resurrection, and the template by which we can live everyday.

Easter is just one day, but living in the light of Easter can give us hope every day. Like the constant rising of the sun, we can take hope and find confidence in Jesus’ constant victory over darkness. It also challenges us to bring our own darkness into the light. Whether that darkness is in our own lives or that darkness is something we see happening into the world, Christ commands us to bring it to the light so that the light can overtake it! My prayer for all of us is that we would live into the light that Christ gives us and shines upon us from the glory of his resurrection.

See you in Worship!

Paste Dan

Session Summary

Clerk of Session Sandi Thompson

The regular monthly meeting of the Bethany Session was held on March 15, at 6:30pm in the church office. The meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend Commerford and a quorum was declared present.

Stuart Clive read from Hebrews 12:1-10 and from a reading in the Daily Bread entitled "Don't Quit." The message encourages us to persevere in the faith especially when the challenges of life make us weary and discouraged. Also, it is important for us to remember that Jesus will always help us through and that God disciplines us in order for us to increase our faith. Stuart then closed in prayer.

The financial report was reviewed. Our expenses were greater than our income for February.

The prayer list was reviewed and Pastor Commerford led us in prayer for those listed.

Rev. Commerford provided his Pastoral report for November and December. He also reported that the recent Hunger Run was well represented by Bethany members and everyone had a great time. Bethany raised about \$600 for this event.

The Docket and minutes were approved pending any corrections. Our current active membership is now 127 with the passing of Doris Mote on February 22.

Pastor Dan will be taking continuing education leave in April and pulpit coverage will be Dr. Al Myers on April 3 and Rev. Betsy Turner on April 24.

Ministry Team Highlights

- VBS is on schedule to be held June 6-10. Volunteers are still needed. Those interested may sign-up using the tear-off in the bulletin or speak with Kelly Lewis or Shannon Henderson.
- Letters will be sent to those students eligible for a Bethany scholarship.
- The Children and Youth Ministry Team is exploring how much interest there is for our younger children to attend day camp at Camp Calvin.
- Bethany will participate in the Baby Bottle Campaign for Refuge Pregnancy Center. The baby bottles will be made available on Mother's Day and returned Father's Day.
- "Relay for Life" will be held on April 29. The Session approved the sale of luminaries in honor or memory of loved ones affected by cancer. These will be available in the Assembly Room on April 17 & 24.
- The choir will lead the Easter sunrise service again this year. As before, there will be a breakfast afterward.
- The Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 24, at 7:00pm. It will include communion served by intinction.
- The Good Friday service is on March 25, at 11:00am. It will be followed by a pot luck luncheon.
- It was suggested and approved to have just one greeter at each door at the beginning of worship.
- The tile and toilet in the nursery bathroom have been replaced. The ministry team would also like to purchase a padded play area for about \$248 and to replace the rocking chairs for about \$250. The Session approved to use funds from the development fund to purchase these items and will use proceeds from the BBQ in July to offset the expenditure.
- The peer audit of Bethany's financial books is underway.

(Continued on page 3)

Session Summary *(Continued from page 2)*

- A new hand sewn flag, which should hold up better, has been placed on the flagpole. The old flag will be taken to VFW to be disposed of properly.
- The Buildings and Ground team will check with our current landscaper to see how much it would cost to include mowing the yard behind the office. Currently that yard is being mowed by various church members. The team is also working on ridding the fellowship hall of problem with red wasps.
- Graduation Sunday is scheduled for May 15. It was agreed to have a hot dog lunch that day and afterward have a corn hole contest and bake-off. The funds raised will go to fund Camp Calvin. Kelly Lewis has a machine that will cut the vinyl letters needed to update our graduate sign. Thank you Kelly!
- Meals have been taken to Charlene and Charles Rape. We continue in our prayers for them.
- Old/New Business: The Elder Nominating Committee will put Chris Mize in nomination to fill the unexpired elder term of the Worship Ministry Team. The Session approved a Congregational Meeting on April 10, to act on this recommendation.
- There will be no regular Session meeting in July.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for August 19, at 6:30 pm. Donald Smith will have the devotion. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Summary of Called Session Meeting

Submitted by Clerk Sandi Thompson

A called meeting of the Bethany Session was held on March 17, at 7:40pm in the church office. Those present were: Rev. Commerford, Stuart Clive, Tracy Pirkle, Donald Smith, Carolyn Sullivan and Sandi Thompson. Those excused: Joanne Hooper, Joe Lewis, Dennis Mills and Jessica Robinson.

A quorum was present and the meeting was opened with prayer. The purpose was to discuss whether to allow a film production company to use the Bethany property in an upcoming ABC television comedy. There was a discussion regarding insurance, clean-up, etc. Session approval was given pending a review of the terms of use being within acceptable limits discussed by the Session. We will also investigate the possibility of Bethany being placed on a filming location list for possible upcoming productions.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Commerford at 8 pm.

Crock-Pot Cook Off Winning Recipe Submitted by Kelly Lewis

Crock-Pot Chicken Teriyaki

Ingredients

1 lbs chicken, diced
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup teriyaki sauce
1/2 cup brown sugar
3 garlic cloves, minced

Directions

Combine chicken broth, teriyaki sauce, brown sugar and garlic cloves in large bowl. Add chicken to sauce, and toss to combine. Pour chicken mixture into crock-pot. Cook on low 4-6 hours, or until chicken is cooked through. Steam a frozen bag of broccoli and add to the crock pot about 30 minutes before serving. Serve over hot cooked rice and spoon extra sauce if desired.

Christian Discipleship Ministry Team**Elder Dennis Mills**

Springtime is now officially here!! That means that Vacation Bible School will soon be upon us. This year's Vacation Bible School at Bethany will take place June 6-10. Please mark this week on your calendar and, as always, please invite all of the friends and family you can. As we did last year, the middle school and high school age kids will be assisting in the activities and production of VBS and we will be using the same rotational model as last year. We will be needing lots of help from our great volunteers! Specifically, we will need help with babysitting for the volunteers' children (if needed), chaperones / teachers, crafts, decorating, making advance phone calls, photography, puppeteer for the puppet show, registration, sound system, writing cards and letters to children attending VBS, and of course, we will need all the prayers we can get for the VBS volunteers and attendees alike. If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS at Bethany this year, please see Kelly Lewis or Shannon Henderson. There will also be a sign up list of opportunities in the bulletin each week that you can fill out and place in the offering plate. On behalf of the VBS staff – Thank you!

Hospitality Ministry Team**Elder Joanne Hooper**

Mark your calendars for May 15! We will be honoring all our graduates on this Sunday. After morning worship that day, there will be a hotdog cookout for everyone. We will be asking people to sign up to bring side dishes.

Also we will be having our corn hole tournament (\$20/team) to raise money for youth summer camps like Camp Calvin for our Kid's Club Children. Look for that sign-up poster on the bulletin board starting in May. We will also have a dessert bake-off with everyone voting for their favorite dessert. Prizes will be awarded to the winner for the corn hole game and dessert bake-off. So please plan to join us for a fun afternoon.

A Tribute to Doris Hicks Mote

Doris Hicks Mote passed away Monday, February 22, 2016 at the age of 92. She is survived by caretakers and cousins, Judy and Charles Moore, brother-in-law Ray Mote, sister-in-law Sara Mote, many other cousins, nieces and nephews. She was born in Newton County to the late Alfred Leonidas Hicks and Allie Lee Kinnett Hicks and was a direct descendent of Bethany Presbyterian Church Charter Member, Colonel Alfred Livingston.

Doris graduated as Valedictorian from Livingston High School, and graduated from Georgia State College for Women. She taught school in Muscogee, Newton, Houston, and Rockdale Counties.

On June 6, 1956, she married Leslie W. Mote and they later built their home on land that was part of the King-Hicks home place on Highway 212, where Doris grew up. Doris and Leslie were members of Bethany Presbyterian Church both joining as children in the 1930's. Doris served the church in many capacities such as: Elder, Sunday school teacher, organist, and as an officer of the Presbyterian Women.

The storage chest used for storing the communion cups and bread trays was given by Doris and her mother in 1966. They also gave the carpet for the floor in the sanctuary in 1980.

Another significant contribution Doris made at Bethany was serving as the chairperson of the 1980 Building Committee. This committee was granted authority by the session and congregation to proceed with major renovation of the sanctuary. Doris provided great leadership to this committee.

Bethany's Building Fund which was started in 1973, stood at \$22,000 at the beginning of 1980. The committee felt the need to raise \$25,000 to complete the work. At the end of October 1980, the Bethany Building Fund had reached \$48,175.25! The major renovation was completed and a very special dedication was held January 11, 1981. Of interest to most, Bobby Shue, member of Buttrill's Construction, who did the work, gave the stained glass portrait on the wall behind the pulpit of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Services for Doris were held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 11am at Bethany with Reverend Daniel Commerford officiating. She was buried in the Bethany Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to the Bethany Presbyterian Building Fund, now known as the Developmental Fund.

Kids Club News

Elder Joe Lewis

The Kid's club gathered on March 6, for a fun filled afternoon. God provided us with beautiful weather that day so we decided to enjoy some time outside by playing a game of kickball. Then we



moved inside for a delicious ice cream sundae. After our sundaes, we just couldn't stand to be indoors so we headed back outside to enjoy the playground. We had 13 kids at our meeting!!!! I can't express how joyous it is to see such a great group of kids come together for this time of fellowship.

On March 26, we had the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts help us fill and hide Easter eggs for our annual hunt. A BIG THANKS to Adrienne Mote for coordinating all the extra help. We had a great turnout and all the kids got more candy than any one person needs. Thanks to everyone who donated candy, refreshments and a hand to make this event possible.

Due to Newton County schools Spring Break the Kid's Club will only be meeting once in the month of April. We are planning a family picnic on April 24. This event will take place immediately following morning worship. All families of Kid's Club members are invited to stay as we enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs on the church grounds followed by some outdoor games.



Easter Sunday, 1987 was the beginning of my journey here at Bethany. My friend, Gladys Kitchens, told me that Bethany was looking for someone to play for them, so I set-up an appointment. Ellen Alexander had played for years and had decided to retire. There was no piano, only an organ. I played one hymn and she said I had the job! What a blessing it has been for me!

Music has always been part of my life. As a child, sitting on my grandparents front porch in Porterdale and listening to the congregation sing on Sunday nights (before air conditioning) from the Baptist Church across the street was something special for me. I knew that music would always be special for me. Music will touch your heart when you need it to be touched by God, it will soothe your weary soul, it will give you a better attitude and above all it will bring you closer to God.

If you are looking for a way to better serve God, maybe you would like to join our choir! Joanna is a great director and fun to know! We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm and we have so much fun and fellowship. I know you would enjoy it! Oh! And by the way, we also practice music such as hymns and anthems. Give us a try and you will be surprised at how much you enjoy music.

Choir News



Carolyn Peters

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 COMMUNION Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am Capes Reunion 1:00-3:00pm Bill Mote	4 Megan Quackenbush	5 Boy Scouts — 7:00pm Kylie Douglas Don Wagner	6 Bible Study 2:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	7	8	9 Cowan Family 11:00am-4:00pm James Mote
10 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am - Congregational Mtg.	11 Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00pm	12 Boy Scouts — 7:00pm	13 Bible Study 2:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	14	15 Theresa Robinson	16
17 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	18	19 Session Mtg.—6:30pm Boy Scouts — 7:00pm	20 Bible Study 2:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	21	22 Rachel Commerford	23
24 Men's Breakfast—7:30am Sunday School—9:30am Café Connection—10:30am Morning Worship—11:00am - Newsletter Deadline Kid's Club Family Picnic — 12:30am	25 Girls Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Billy Hunt James Robinson	26 Boy Scouts — 7:00pm Riley Mote	27 Fun Seekers 11:00am Bible Study 2:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Sandi Thompson	28 Shannon Henderson Hal King	29 OKB 6:00pm—8:00pm Relay for Life Summer Hunt	30 Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery 10:00am

Every weakness you have is an opportunity for God to show His strength in your life!

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Monthly Volunteers

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Children's Worship	Tina Douglas	Adrienne Mote	Barbara Smith	Suzanne Hooper
Acolytes	Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon
Liturgists	Barbara Smith	Dennis Mills	Tommy McFarlin	Rachel Commerford
Greeters	Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Chris Mize Wayne Mize
Ushers	Barbara Smith Donald Smith Jessica Salmon Chandler Salmon			
Open Bldg.	Donald Smith	Bill Mote	Buddy & Rae Cook	Men of the Church
Close Bldg.	Lisa Parris	Jessica Robinson	Tracy Pirkle	Wayne & Chris Mize

Prayer Concerns

Jake Argauer (Betty O'Donnell's cousin)
 Jenny Arlt (Friend of the Hunts)
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Shane Beam (Friend of the Mizes)
 Penny Britt (Friend of Rae Cook)
 Sandra Johnson Brun (Friend of the Cooks)
 Caitlin Bubige (Friend of Betty O'Donnell)
 Mark Burton
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
 Evelyn Capes
 C. C. for Christ – Marcin K. & Maciek M.
 Betty Davenport
 Tammy Davis (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Zach Foster
 Justine Harrison (Friend of Connie Hunt)
 Dean Hunt (Billy Hunt's brother)
 Phil Kelly (Friend of Sherill Foster)
 Bob King
 Ruth King

Hannie Lanclos (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Paul & Lynn Lewis
 Ruth MacEntee (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Traci Mask (Friend of Jessica Salmon)
 Lynda Monahon (Friend of the Hunts)
 Charles & Charlene Rape & Family
 Butch Rumble (Friend of Sandi Thompson)
 Joe Starr
 Gail Viau (Dan Commerford's mother)
 Rose Wildbaun (Jim Parney's sister)
 Sharon Zmuda (Betty O'Donnell's cousin)
 Our College Students
 Our Military Men and Women



Relay For Life 2016

The Relay For Life Event for Newton County is scheduled for Friday, April 29, beginning at 7:00PM at The Church of Covington, 11975 Georgia Hwy 142, in Oxford.

Most of us are aware of these yearly events and understand what they are all about. Monies raised are used to further advance the research to continue the battle against this horrible disease. The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing the suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Whether it's a parent, sibling, friend or neighbor, we all know someone who has been touched by cancer. For so many of us, cancer has such a personal connection and is dealt with on a daily basis.

We at Bethany will be set up in the assembly room on the two Sundays prior to the event (April 17 and 24) to sell luminaries to place at the relay in honor or in memory of our loved ones who have either lost the battle or fighting it now. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and courage with which we all continue to fight cancer.

In addition to raising funds through the sale of luminaries, we will be assisting in setting the many hundreds of them out on the afternoon of the event, so they will be in place and ready for the lighting ceremony at dusk.

These opportunities are open to all and your participation is welcome. With the support of volunteers like you, the American Cancer Society is helping save more than 500 lives a day. Please join us and take action against a disease that has taken too much!

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