



SEPTEMBER 2016

Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Secretary

Annie King

Pianist

Carolyn Peters

Choir Director

Joanna Reesman

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2017

Stuart Clive

Joe Lewis

Donald Smith

Sandi Thompson

Chris Mize

2018

Brandon Douglas

Bill Mote

Chandler Salmon

Tracy Pirkle

Inside this issue:

Session Reports	2-3
Volunteers/Prayer List	4
Calendar	5
Choir News	6
Youth News	6
Session Ministry Teams	8

Town Hall Meeting—Sunday, September 4 Elder Donald Smith

We will be having a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, September 4, following the worship service to discuss the possibility of leaving the P.C.(U.S.A.). It is very important that all members be at the meeting because we need everyone's input. If you can not attend the meeting, we will attempt to have some sort of transcript available for you to review.

Reason for the meeting: The Session has received multiple letters and comments from members about their concerns with the way our denomination has changed.

What will be discussed:

1. Questions, thoughts, and concerns of our members, discerning God's will for Bethany?
2. What are our options?
3. What would this process look like?

Many mornings I wake up at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. Recently on one such morning, I started to think about this process and what we should consider when seeking to follow God's will. The following words came to my mind:

Decide – Are we really living for God or just going through the motions of being a Christian? God said in Revelation 3:15, "I know your deeds, that you are neither hot or cold. I wish you were one or the other."

Change – God can change our lives if we will only let Him. He is standing at the door of our heart, knocking. Only we can let Him in. Proverbs 8:35 says, "For whoever finds me, finds life and receives favor from the Lord."

Commit – You can not stay the same after you commit to God. He calls us to become His own and serve Him.

Strength – 2 Samuel 22:23, "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect." What peace we find when we let the strong arms of God hold us.

Breathe in – The Holy Word of God.

Breath out – Let only the love of God shine through you.

Decide – Let us learn from Israel's mistakes and successes. If you have never done so before, set today as a memorial day. Write it down as the day you decided to serve God completely. Then renew that commitment every day. Joshua said to the people, choose this day who you will serve. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

In Christ,
Elder Donald Smith

Session Summary

Clerk of Session, Sandi Thompson

The regular meeting of the Bethany Session was held on August 16, at 6:30pm in the church office. A quorum was present.

Sandi gave the devotional. She read from Joshua 24 about choosing to serve God and from Galatians 5 about how serving God produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. As leaders, we are encouraged to show these fruits in our leadership especially during this period of transition. Sandi then offered prayer.

The financial report for July was reviewed and the Elders were given the opportunity to clarify and ask questions. Annie is available to the new elders for instruction on how the financial reports are set up and for how to approve expenditures for their ministry teams.

The prayer list was reviewed and updated. Prayer cards were sent to those recent additions. Prayer was led for all those on the list and others mentioned.

The new Elders, Brandon Douglas, Bill Mote and Chandler Salmon, shared their faith story and then were examined according to the Book of Order. The Session approved the ordination of Brandon and Chandler and their installation along with Bill Mote and Tracy Pirkle on Sunday, September 11.

The Session discussed the possibility of Bethany leaving the P.C.(USA) denomination. Rev. Joy Fisher clarified the Policy of Respectful Discernment and Possible Mutual Separation of the Presbytery. The Session then discussed having a town hall meeting to present information to the Congregation.

Sandi Thompson gave the Clerk's Report. The docket and minutes were approved pending any corrections that need to be made.

- Correspondence was received from: Friends of Forman Christian College for \$400 to support our missionary Cheryl Burke, Faithworks, Family Promise of NewRock, Inc., Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, Newton Food Pantry, Resource Pregnancy Center for the \$525.95, Prayers for Bethany from Gideons International, Ethical Guidelines for Departing Pastors, Montreat events calendar, a letter from member, Bill Foster.
- Stuart Clive will be the commissioner at the next Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, August 20, at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church at 9 am. Sandi Thompson will be the commissioner at the November 15, Presbytery Meeting in Fayetteville.
- The July 3, 2016 Congregational Meeting Minutes were approved.
- The Clerk will respond to an email from Lanier Mote .
- The Church of Covington sent a letter and a flyer announcing a service of prayer to be held at their church on September 11, 2016 from 6-8 pm. This is called a Community Prayer for Protection of our Sheriffs, Police Officers, Firemen and Women, EMTs and First Responders.
- A request for Transfer from Bethany to Trinity Presbyterian Church for Hal and Annie King was also received and approved. This will bring the current active membership count to 124.

Ministry Team Highlights

- The Session approved a request from the worship ministry team to use up to \$1,000 for the purchase of new choir music, out of the previously designated \$2,500 for new choir robes.
- Homecoming plans for October 16 were discussed and Rev. Dr. Al Myers has agreed to be our guest preacher for that day.
- Communion will continue on a monthly basis. Minute for mission will discontinue at this time.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

- It was approved to pursue a half-time interim pastor. The Session will form an interim pastor search committee.
- Plans for the pumpkin patch are on hold for this year due to the drought and the need for a new pump for the well. There are plans for planting turnip greens and potatoes this fall.
- Rally Day is planned for September 4. The Men's Breakfast will prepare eggs, grits, biscuits and sausage while others will be asked to bring a side to share. Outgoing and incoming teachers will be recognized. A teacher is still needed for the preschool/K children.
- Sack Lunches for November will be provided and assisted by Girl Scouts participation.

The next regular Session meeting will be held on September 20, at 6:30 pm. Brandon Douglas will have the devotional. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Christian Discipleship Ministry Team

Elder Dennis Mills

As we move ever closer to the cooler weather of Fall, we also move toward our new Sunday School quarter which will begin on September 4. We will be continuing our "Bible Studies for Life" series in our Adult class focusing on "Unvarnished Truth: Life's Greatest Story, Unstoppable Gospel", while the Young Adults class will begin studying and discussing "1, 2 Peter and Jude". Our kid's Sunday School classes will be learning about Joseph, Moses, and how God provides for us. The Lord encourages us to learn more about His word, and these are some great opportunities to do that.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Joe Lewis as our new Sunday School Superintendent for the upcoming year and thank him for volunteering to lead us in that capacity. As always, please come out and join us on Sunday morning at 9:30a.m. for our Sunday School classes and fellowship!

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Elder Carolyn Sullivan

The Church at Covington is hosting a cross-denominational, cross-county prayer gathering to ask God for the protection of our Public Safety Officers and First Responders who put their lives in jeopardy for our protection on a daily basis.

Considering the recent attacks in our country on some of these precious officers and the effects that these events have had on both the public servants themselves and their families, it seems prudent that the community of faith gather together and seek the Divine Protection from our Heavenly Father.

We are invited to attend this gathering on Sunday evening, September 11, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to come and go as we may feel led. We need God's intervention and protection for all those who are in jeopardy for us on a day-to-day basis. Since this will be a time to be spent before the Lord, they ask that we respect the time with reverence and in anticipation of miracles God would choose to bless us with throughout our community and nation.

Even if you choose not to attend the prayer gathering, this somber anniversary for our great nation is a reminder that our prayers are powerful and are heard in heaven. Each one of us can certainly pray on our own and know our Lord is listening.

There is additional information on the bulletin board in the assembly room relating to the invitation to the prayer gathering.

Monthly Volunteers

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Children's Worship	Adrienne Mote	Barbara Smith	Suzanne Hooper	Terri Quackenbush
Acolytes	Brylie Lewis Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Brylie Lewis Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Brylie Lewis Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon	Brylie Lewis Jordan McCullough Cooper Salmon
Liturgists	Barbara Smith	Dennis Mills	Tommy McFarlin	Sandi Thompson
Greeters	Bill Mote Tommy Pirkle	Bill Mote Tommy Pirkle	Bill Mote Tommy Pirkle	Bill Mote Tommy Pirkle
Ushers	Barbara Smith Donald Smith Jessica Salmon Chandler Salmon	Barbara Smith Donald Smith Jessica Salmon Chandler Salmon	Barbara Smith Donald Smith Jessica Salmon Chandler Salmon	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)
 Alan Arrington (Connie Hunt's cousin)
 Jenny Arit (Friend of the Hunts)
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Chelsea Barronton (Friend of the Wagners)
 Shane Beam (Friend of the Mizes)
 Penny Britt (Friend of Rae Cook)
 Debbie Bowman (Friend of Betty O'Donnell)
 Caitlin Bubige (Friend of Betty O'Donnell)
 Mark Burton
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
 Jesse Carlson (Terri Quackenbush's cousin)
 Evelyn Capes
 C. C. for Christ – Marcin K. & Maciek M.
 Taylor Coffee (Cody Pirkle's fiance)
 Zach Foster
 Bill & Margaret Frisbee (Friends of Nancy Boyce)
 Terrie Greer (Friend of the Douglas's)
 Billy Hunt
 Dean Hunt (Billy Hunt's brother)
 Sharon Jerrell (Shannon Henderson's mother)
 Alan Jones (Friend of the Wagners)
 Bob King

Ruth King
 Clarence Lawrence (Nancy Boyce)
 Lynn Lewis
 Ruth MacEntee (Friend of Nancy Boyce)
 Rita McCullough
 Beth Milliken (Nancy Boyce)
 Jane & Bill Moore (Nancy Boyce's family)
 David Morris (Charles & Charlene Rape's g-son)
 Dee Norris
 Christian Parsons (friend of Betty O'Donnell)
 Dayle Robinson (Dee Norris' daughter)
 Sherri Rudasill
 Larry Shoemate (Terry King & Carolyn Sullivan)
 Liam Smythe (Friend of the Wagners)
 Charlotte Sweeten
 Joan Wagner
 Tiffany Wagner (The Wagner's granddaughter)
 Larry & Karen Williams (Buddy
 Cook's cousin)
 Sharon Zmuda (Betty O'Donnell's
 cousin)
 Our College Students
 Our Military Men and Women



September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School—9:30am – Rally Day Breakfast Morning Worship—11:00am - Communion Town Hall Meeting following worship	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	7 Choir Practice 6:30pm	8 Sarah Cason	9	10 Kid's Club to Stone Mountain Laser Show Barbara Lawson
11 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am – Ordination/Installation of Elders Dennis Mills	12 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	13 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	14 Choir Practice 6:30pm	15 Chandler Salmon	16 Peyton Salmon	17
18 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	19 Lanier Mote	20 Boy Scouts 7:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm	21 Choir Practice 6:30pm	22 Ansley Douglas	23	24 Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery 10:00am
25 Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Café Connection — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am - Newsletter Deadline Kid's Club Mtg 2:30-4:00pm	26 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	27 Boy Scouts 7:00pm Jessica Robinson	28 Fun Seekers 11:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm	29	30	

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 11:1

The Bethany Choir would like to thank the Session for approving the generous donation to the music program. After a lot of prayer, the choir felt that purchasing robes would not be as beneficial to the music program as purchasing new music that can inspire and revitalize the church community as a whole. We are hoping to find selections from a broad musical repertoire from classical, to folk, to world music, and finally to contemporary/popular music. We hope that by bringing in new music for our worship services at Bethany, we can add creative artistry and beauty to each and every service. If you've ever thought about joining the Bethany Choir, we would love to see you at practice on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for a fresh new start to our musical church year.

Choir News



Joanna Reesman

Kid's Club / Youth Group News

Submitted by
Elder Joe Lewis



The Kid's Club/Youth Group kicked-off a new year with a "Splash" at our pool party on August 14. There was a total of 8 kids and 6 adults in attendance. The weather was perfect and the pool felt even better. After two hours of swimming, the kids and adults were exhausted!

The Kid's Club/Youth Group met again on August 28, for a regular meeting where we made "Shrinky Dinks" to show how our problems tend to be smaller

when we let God have control over them. For those who may be wondering what "Shrinky Dinks" are, I would say they are a plastic type of paper that you can color then bake and they get remarkably smaller. The kids loved watching them bake as they curled up and then flattened and magically shrunk!!! We had a total of 10 kids and two adults at this meeting.

We have a couple events planned that I would like to draw to your attention, as it is not solely for the Kid's Club/Youth Group. On September 10, we are planning a trip to Stone Mountain to view the laser show. The cost of this event really just depends on how many vehicles are going as it is \$15 per car load. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Assembly room.

The next event isn't until November 4, which is the Casting Crowns concert. If you are interested in attending this event please let me know and pay for your tickets no later than September 11, to insure we won't miss out if the concert sells out. We do have at least 10 people going so the cost of this event has been reduced to the group rate of \$20 per person.

There is another Kid's Club/Youth Group meeting scheduled for September 25. This meeting will take place at the church from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. We invite all children ages 4 through 12th grade to join us for a great time of fellowship.



Bethany Will Celebrate 174 Years of Ministry in October!

Bethany Presbyterian Church was established in 1842. This October 16, we will celebrate Homecoming and our 174th anniversary! Invite your family and friends to attend!

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Al Myers, will deliver the Homecoming message this year! Rev. Myers served as the pastor of Conyers Presbyterian for 30 years and has supplied the Bethany pulpit many times since his retirement. It is always a pleasure to have him at Bethany!

Remember, as has been our tradition, there will be no Sunday School on Homecoming Sunday. However, everyone is invited to stay for a covered dish luncheon following worship. Bethany has always been known for its fine cooks. Some things, time never changes!

Congratulations to Jimmy and Jessica Robinson on the birth of their daughter, Catherine Rae Robinson!

Catherine was born on August 10, and weighed eight pounds and two ounces. She is the sister of proud big brother, Cade.

Her paternal grandparents, James & Theresa Robinson, paternal great-grandmother, Dee Norris, and maternal grandmother, Angela Gilmer are all members of Bethany.

We all rejoice that Catherine is the newest member of God's family at Bethany!



Bible Word Search: **NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS**

Instructions: Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle. © Memory-Improvement-Tips.com. Reprinted by Permission.

U Q O K A I S N S M T K R P M
 V L F Z J T Y O A E E O A O R
 O M G Y V O N T N Z I C B X K
 Y D N Y M O E N U V A N B O A
 D L O V F H T C A S I R I X R
 E R I G W A R S P D S H E W E
 N T O G B M A L I D O V Z N D
 F D J L H Q Y V K R T T R Z E
 I G Q R R T A E G T H V E P E
 P B Y I H D S E K E U C T X M
 T S W K F T Y A J I O Q S L E
 L I I O N A M F O N O S A H R
 V N N Q Z Y K V A D E J M V R
 G O J E S U S E M M A N U E L
 S V B G G W T Z T P B Q J F E

- CHRIST**
- EMMANUEL**
- JESUS**
- KING** of the Jews
- LAMB** of God
- LIGHT** of the World
- LORD**
- MASTER**
- NAZARENE**
- RABBI**
- REDEEMER**
- SAVIOR**
- SON OF DAVID**
- SON OF GOD**
- SON OF MAN**

On Sunday, September 11, Brandon Douglas and Chandler Salmon will be ordained as Ruling Elders and will be installed along with Bill Mote and Tracy Pirkle into the Elder Class of 2018. 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 - Donald Smith
 Clerk - Sandi Thompson
 Children & Youth - Joe Lewis
 Christian Discipleship - Bill Mote
 Member Care / Hospitality - Tracy Pirkle
 Mission & Outreach - Brandon Douglas
 Stewardship & Finance - Chandler Salmon
 Worship - Chris Mize



Also, thank you to Joanne Hooper, Dennis Mills, Jessica Robinson, and Carolyn Sullivan who roll-off the Session after the installation of the new class. Your time, energy, creativity, and prayers have served Bethany very well!