



NOVEMBER 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

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## “Attitude of Gratitude”

Elder Sandi Thompson

I always think of November as Gratitude Month. Not that I am not grateful other months of the year, but I take time out especially to focus on gratitude during November, the month of Thanksgiving. In the dictionary, gratitude, thankfulness and gratefulness are somewhat interchangeable. In the thesaurus, grace is listed as a synonym for gratitude. For all who know me well, you know I am forever grateful for God’s grace.

In Ephesians 2:5-8, Paul tells us, “though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God’s grace. And he raised us up with Christ Jesus so that for all future time he could show the very great riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus. I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God.”

And in 2 Timothy 1:9, “God saved us and made us his holy people. That was not because of anything we did ourselves but because of God’s purpose and grace.”

And Casting Crowns, a contemporary Christian music group, sings a song entitled “Who Am I” written by Mark Hall and produced by Mark A. Miller and Steven Curtis Chapman, that says it better than I can:

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth  
Would care to know my name  
Would care to feel my hurt?  
Who am I, that the bright and morning star  
Would choose to light the way  
For my ever wondering heart?

Not because of who I am  
But because of what You’ve done  
Not because of what I’ve done  
But because of who You are

I am a flower quickly fading  
Here today and gone tomorrow  
A wave tossed in the ocean  
A vapor in the wind  
Still You hear me when I’m calling  
Lord You catch me when I’m falling  
And You told me who I am  
I am Yours, I am Yours

Who am I, that the eyes that see our sin  
Would look on me with love  
And watch me rise again?  
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea  
Would call out through the rain  
And calm the storm in me?

This song speaks to me of God’s character; that He loved us so much, He gave us a way to be with Him in eternity.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Session Summary

Clerk of Session, Sandi Thompson

The regular monthly meeting of the Bethany Session was held on October 18, 2016. The meeting was opened in prayer at 6:35 pm in the church office and a quorum was declared present.

For the opening devotional, Chandler Salmon showed a short video about family, love and prayer in difficult times and then read several scriptures from the books of Isaiah and Matthew. We are all encouraged to continue expressing our love for each other and pray continually during this difficult time in the life of Bethany and the world. Rev. Myers then closed this time with prayer.

The financial report of September was reviewed and Elders were given the opportunity to clarify and ask questions. The financial picture looks more positive for September.

The prayer list was reviewed and updated. Prayer cards were sent to those in need. Dr. Myers led us in prayer for all those on the list and others mentioned.

Dr. Myers availability for worship at Bethany was reviewed and a calendar was developed. Dr. Myers will preach November 20 through December 25, 2016. This includes the Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve services.

The following items were addressed during the Clerk's report:

- the Docket and minutes pending any corrections that need to be made were approved.
- our ending membership is now 122 with the passing of Delores "Dee" Norris on 10/10/16 and following the approval of a request received to transfer Rachel Commerford to the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta, Florida .
- a thank you not was received from the family of Dee Norris and is posted on the bulletin board in the Assembly room.
- Sandi Thompson and Chris Mize will be the commissioners at the November 15, Presbytery Meeting in Fayetteville, at Fayetteville Presbyterian Church at 9 am.
- the Annual Meeting of the Corporation was approved to be scheduled for December 18, 2016.
- Rev. Nelson DeBrosse will be preaching October 23 through November 13.

## Ministry Teams Highlights

- The work day on October 15 went well. The broken part on the playground has been repaired. The handrail on the front entrance steps is scheduled to be repaired next.
- The Thornwell offering "turkeys" will be distributed November 13 and collected the following Sunday, November 20.
- A welcome letter will be sent to first time visitors by the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team. They are also considering having a small gift to present to them on their first Sunday.
- The Mission and Outreach Team will be purchasing small pocket crosses for our members to give to those we encounter who seem to need Christ's love.
- Commitment Sunday is scheduled for October 23. All members are encouraged to bring their completed forms to church that Sunday.
- November 6 is Retired Educators Day and we will take time to recognize those in our congregation who contribute to our children's education.
- The Session is beginning the budget review process for 2017.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	2	3  Fran Smith	4 Casting Crowns Concert—Woodstock 7:00pm	5
6 Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am - Communion  Jana Rudasill	7	8 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	9 Choir Practice 6:30pm	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY	12 Henderson Family Fellowship Hall 2:00-5:00 pm
13 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	14 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	15 Presbytery Mtg. 9:00am—Fayetteville Session Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	16 Choir Practice 6:30pm  Tommy McFarlin	17  Connie Hunt	18  Betty D'Donnell	19
20 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am Kid's Club Mtg—2:30-4:00pm  Emily Mills	21	22 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	23 NO Choir Practice Thanksgiving Eve Svc. 7:00pm	24 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	26	26 Greening of the Church 9:00am Sack Lunch Prep/ Delivery 10:00am
27 1st Sunday in Advent Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Café Connection — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am - Newsletter deadline  Angela Gilmer	28 Girl Scouts 6:00pm	29 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	30 NO Fun Seekers Choir Practice 6:30pm			

The family of Bob King would like to thank everyone for the many expressions of love and kindness shown to us during dad's recent illness and passing. We appreciate the calls, cards, messages, visits, food, and most of all, your love and prayers. Your thoughtfulness means more to us than you could ever know.

## Monthly Volunteers

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
<b>Children's Worship</b>	Adrienne Mote	Barbara Smith	Terri Quackenbush	Jessica Salmon
<b>Liturgists</b>	Stuart Clive	Barbara Smith	Dennis Mills	Sandi Thompson
<b>Greeters</b>	Buddy & Rae Cook	Buddy & Rae Cook	Buddy & Rae Cook	Buddy & Rae Cook
<b>Ushers</b>	Buddy Cook Rae Cook Brandon Douglas Bill Mote	Buddy Cook Rae Cook Brandon Douglas Bill Mote	Buddy Cook Rae Cook Brandon Douglas Bill Mote	Buddy Cook Rae Cook Brandon Douglas Bill Mote
<b>Open Bldg.</b>	Donald Smith	Bill Mote	Buddy & Rae Cook	Men of the Church
<b>Close Bldg.</b>	Lisa Parris	Jessica Robinson	Tracy Pirkle	Wayne & Chris Mize

## Prayer Concerns

The Family of Alan Arrington (Connie Hunt's cousin)  
 Jenny Arlt (Friend of the Hunts)  
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Friend of Nancy Boyce)  
 Shane Beam (Friend of the Mizes)  
 Caitlin Burbige (Friend of Betty O'Donnell)  
 Mark Burton  
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)  
 Jesse Carlson (Terri Quackenbush's cousin)  
 C. C. for Christ – Marcin K. & Maciek M.  
 Jeff Clive (Stuart Clive's brother)  
 Jeff Dugan (Friend of Bethany)  
 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)  
 The Family of Bob King  
 Ruth King

Dillon Large (Friend of the Wagners)  
 Clarence Lawrence (Nancy Boyce)  
 Lynn Lewis  
 Ruth MacEntee (Friend of Nancy Boyce)  
 Beth Milliken (Nancy Boyce)  
 Jane & Bill Moore (Nancy Boyce's family)  
 David Morris (Charles & Charlene Rape's g-son)  
 The Family of Dee Norris  
 Christian Parsons (friend of Betty O'Donnell)  
 Larry Shoemate (Terry King & Carolyn Sullivan)  
 Joe Starr  
 Charlotte Sweeten  
 Brycen & Brenlee Wadsworth (Friends of Tommy Pirkle)  
 Polly Wagner (The Wagner's daughter)  
 Lynn Waters  
 Larry & Karen Williams (Buddy Cook's cousin)  
 Our College Students  
 Our Military Men and Women



Dear Bethany Family,

Our family wants to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers for our mother and sister during their illnesses. Thanks to all who provided food in our time of sorrow.

The Family of Dee Norris

## Session Summary *(Continued from page 2)*

- The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at 7 pm and led by Dr. Myers.
- Greening of the Church is scheduled for November 26, 2016 at 9 am.
- The Joy Gift program is scheduled for December 4 at 7:00pm and the Bethany Choir will present the program for that evening. This year's church Christmas dinner will be a pot luck with the church paying for the meat and everyone else bringing side dishes.
- The youth will present a program entitled "One Starry Night" during the Christmas Eve service.
- The Session is forming an Ad Hoc Committee to study the other denominations available for Bethany to join should the decision be made to leave PC(USA). The committee consist of three (3) current Elders and four (4) members of the congregation.

The next Session meeting will be held on November 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Donald Smith will have the devotional. The meeting was closed with prayer.

## "Attitude of Gratitude" *(Continued from page 1)*

The Good News for me is that I didn't have to earn God's grace because I couldn't. I couldn't be "good enough." It was not His plan. God did for me what I could never have done for myself; I do not possess the same power as God. And because I have received this unearned and undeserved favor, grace, I am free to love as Christ taught us to love. And this freedom gives me joy in the most unimaginable places. I mean in watching a mother gently put a parka on her infant during a windy day, seeing a small child help an older person get up slowly out of a seat, and so many other equally common things I am allowed to witness on a daily basis.

Danny and I became foster parents to a dog who is part springer spaniel. We take him to City Pond Park several times a week and watch him chase the ducks in the water. He goes only so far out and then comes back to the shore to do it all over again. He was born to chase ducks. It is so much fun to watch him do what he was born to do. I think it's the same with us. It is so much fun, joy, pleasure to watch Christians worship, praise and give thanks for what our Lord and Savior has done for us; that we will be able to one day live in eternity with our loving Father is indeed a blessing.

I invite you to join us on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, at 7 pm for a service of thanksgiving for all we have been given by our Lord, Christ Jesus. It is a time to reflect on all for which we are grateful. It is a time to express our gratitude in a corporate way together as a family of God's grace.

## Get Out Your Christmas Spirit

**Joanna Reesman, Choir Director**

The Bethany Choir is getting excited to present our Joy Gift performance of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" by Russell Mauldin and Sue Smith. This classic celebration will stir the hearts of the choir and congregation with the heartfelt message of Christmas. The cantata is a combination of captivating stories with incredible songs of the season. From familiar classic songs and hymns to new material, it's a performance you won't want to miss! Make sure you sign up for the delicious family supper beforehand, and then join us at 7:00pm on December 4, for even more fun. It's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!



### Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

It's almost that time of the year again, TURKEY TIME! Every year our church takes part in the Thornwell Offering. We will be passing out "turkey" cards on November 13, and they will be collected on November 20. During this week, we would ask that you collect your quarters and place them in the turkeys, they will also hold paper money if you feel so led.

Please remember when we give to Thornwell we are helping children. The mon-ey-s raised will go toward al-lowing Thornwell to continue to provide safe and loving homes for children in need. Thornwell serves the areas of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

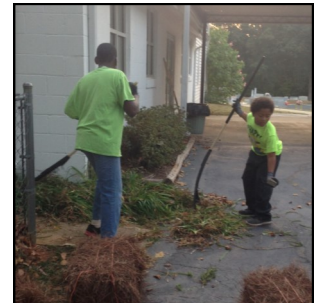


I would also like to thank everyone that con-tributes to the sack lunch program and encour-age anyone that is able to come out and help on the last Saturday of every month.

— Elder Brandon Douglas

### Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Home-coming work day on October 15. It was a very productive day!! Also a special thanks to the Boy Scouts for all their help! — Elder Bill Mote



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