



FEBRUARY 2017

# 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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## “Commitment”

Elder Chandler Salmon

**H**ow can commitment be defined? Commitment can be defined as the decision to do what needs to be done, whatever the cost. Christian commitment, however, can best be defined by starting with God's examples: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God decided to save a lost world. The cost was the cruel, despicable death of His only Son. What made this commitment Christian? Because it was inspired by love, the love defined by Jesus: "Greater love has no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Love inspires commitment, and to have this kind of commitment we also need a crucial component: faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Given our human limitations, what we hope for and what we do not see cannot be confirmed as fact, at least as the world understands "facts." Faith, however, gives the assurance and the conviction that what we hope for, and what we cannot see becomes a reality.

Since being on the Session, I have really seen God's work here at Bethany. Especially through committing ourselves not only for our church, but most importantly God. I myself know that God works through everybody, and I know that everybody has a talent that our church needs. One of my good friends used to always say that Bethany needs people pulling the wagon not just riding in it. So let's all get out of the wagon, and put our talents to work as we serve the Lord together.

## Elder Nominating Committee Elected

Sandi Thompson, Clerk

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 22, at the conclusion of worship and was moderated by Rev. Dr. Bill Herndon. The purpose of the meeting was to elect members to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) and to present the 2017 Bethany Presbyterian church budget.

Clerk of Session, Sandi Thompson, provided an explanation to the congregation of how the vote for committee members of the ENC was to be conducted. Lawson Hooper, Dennis Mills and Carolyn Sullivan were appointed as counters of the written ballots.

During the counting of the ballots, Elder Chandler Salmon presented information on the 2017 Budget and opened the floor for questions. There being no questions, the congregation was invited to make requests for hymns to be sung until the ballots were counted.

After the votes were tabulated, Sandi presented the results. Those elected were: Nancy Boyce, Barbara Lawson, and Tyler Mills. They all agreed to serve. They will serve with current Elders, Stuart Clive and Joe Lewis; Stuart will serve as committee chair.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed in prayer by Dr. Herndon.

**Session Summary**

Clerk of Session Sandi Thompson

The regular meeting of the Bethany Session was held on January 17, 2017. The meeting was opened with prayer at 6:30pm in the church office and a quorum was declared present.

Bill Mote led the devotion. He read from Matthew 22:34-40 about the greatest commandment and from Hebrews 12:1 about running the race God has set before us with endurance. We were encouraged to love God and others and to be open to His guiding love.

The financial report for December was reviewed and the Elders were given the opportunity to clarify and ask questions. The report was approved as received.

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

Dr. Myers has been meeting with Mallory Adams in preparation for her profession of faith. A called Session Meeting will be held February 5, to hear Mallory's profession of faith and receive her into the membership. She will then be presented to the congregation publicly at the worship service that day.

During the Clerk's Report, Sandi reviewed the following items:

- The Docket and minutes pending any corrections that need to be made were approved.
- The active membership remains at 121.
- Correspondence:
  - Thank you cards from Annie King and Carolyn Peters.
  - A Christmas card from Bill and Ann Herndon.
  - FaithWorks – served 485 households and 1256 individuals in 2016. They thanked us for our recent benevolence.
- The number of Elder Commissioners for the Year 2017 based on the plan for Presbytery Parity is two for Bethany
- The Necrology Report for 2016 has been sent (report on deaths of Elders in 2016).
- A reminder was given about the Congregational Meeting on January 22, to elect members to the ENC with Stuart Clive and Joe Lewis being members from the Session elected last meeting.
- Presbytery Meeting reminder for February 4 – Tracy Pirkle and Stuart Clive will attend. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 9, at 4pm, location to be announced.

**Ministry Teams Highlights**

Annual staff evaluations are almost complete. Scholarship application letters will be sent soon to eligible members.

The children and youth will collect the "Souper" Bowl offering on Sunday, February 5. The money collected will be used to feed the hungry in our community.

Chandler Salmon will present budget information at the Congregational Meeting, January 22.

The annual Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 1 at 7:00pm and Dr. Myers has agreed to preach. (See the Worship Ministry Team article for more details about upcoming services.)

The Member Care Ministry Team will perform the annual review of the membership list.

Old/New Business.

- The Ad Hoc Committee met on January 10. Each member was assigned to research one of the possible Presbyterian denominations Bethany could join.

The next regular meeting of the Session will be on February 21 at 6:30pm and Donald Smith will have the devotion. The meeting was closed in prayer by Dr. Myers at 7:54pm.

## Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Elder Brandon Douglas

Lent, the period of 40 days that precedes the celebration of Easter, has its origin in the early days of the Church. Today we know Lent as a season of conversion: we acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward God.

The idea behind giving up something for Lent is based on Luke 9:23 "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" So, essentially it's about self denial, carrying our cross and following Jesus.

Many people make a Lenten promise to add something to their lives during this season. This can be done in conjunction with or in place of giving something up. We are combining fasting and service so we can actually add and give up something at the same time.

Since giving can closely relate to fasting, this year we are asking the Bethany congregation to give up their change to help support the efforts of FaithWorks. This local organization helps to support folks who might be struggling financially and need some help with their rent or utilities. This does not relieve anyone from their own obligation to manage their money and meet their responsibilities; it helps them over a hump. Our assistance over the years has been appreciated and helped so much.

This year Lent will begin on March 1, with our Ash Wednesday Service. That's when we will distribute plastic baggies to use in collecting coins (folded money is ok too!) and hope to take another step toward helping those a lot less fortunate than us.

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV

## Worship Ministry Team

Elder Chris Mize

The Worship Committee has a lot of responsibilities and is so thankful for all the volunteers that make our church worship run smoothly. Together we are able to accomplish so much!

Please be sure to join us for worship on February 12, as we welcome Cub Scout Pack 747, Boy Scout Troop 748, and Venture Crew 749. They will be serving as ushers and greeters during morning worship that day and we will get a chance to hear about their activities here at Bethany, as we are the Charter Organization for these groups.

Lent and Easter will soon be here and that means we will be holding several special worship services. I encourage everyone to attend these services as they are very meaningful.

Ash Wednesday — March 1, at 7:00pm.

Palm Sunday — April 9, at 11:00am.

Maundy Thursday — April 13, at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service — 7:00am on April 16 with our Easter Breakfast following.

Easter Worship Service at 11:00am.

We will be placing orders for Easter Lilies soon, so be on the lookout for that order form in the bulletin. Please don't forget the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15. That is always a lot of fun for everyone.

Also, keep in mind that we celebrate Communion the first Sunday every month with other special Communion dates during the year. Please come and be part of all these meaningful services at Bethany. I would also encourage everyone to take part in all opportunities to volunteer in our worship services. We are always in need of Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists, Children's Worship Leaders, Acolytes, Assistant Nursery Aides, A/V coordinators, and people to open and close the buildings on Sundays.

Please be in prayer for our church and its members.

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir Practice 6:30pm  <b>Tom Bowen Jaxson Lewis</b>	2	3  <b>Rita McCullough</b>	4 Presbytery Mtg. @ Trinity Pres. 10:00am  <b>Audrey Campbell Lanie King</b>
5 Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am — Communion — Called Session Mtg. — "Souper" Bowl Offering	6	7 Ad Hoc Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	8 Choir Practice 6:30pm  <b>Danny Douberley</b>	9	10	11  <b>Susan Mote</b>
12 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am — Scout Sunday	13 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm  <b>Nora King Brylie Lewis</b>	14 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	15 Choir Practice 6:30pm	16  <b>Lynn Waters</b>	17	18 Fellowship Hall in Use 2:00-4:00pm (L. Waters)  <b>Terri Quackenbush</b>
19 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am Kids Club / Youth Group 2:30-4:00pm	20  <b>Chaz Woods</b>	21 Session Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm  <b>Brandon Douglas Jeff Hall Charles Rape</b>	22 Newsletter Deadline Fun Seekers 11:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm	23	24  <b>Ricky Mote Aubrey Pullen</b>	25 Sack Lunch Prep & Delivery 10:00am
26 Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Café Connection — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	27 Girls Scouts 6:30-8:00pm	28 Boy Scouts 7:00pm  <b>Helen Coggin</b>				

Monthly Volunteers				
	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
<b>Children's Worship</b>	Kelly Lewis	Adrienne Mote	Barbara Smith	Terri Quackenbush
<b>Liturgists</b>	Schylar Parris	Chris Mize	Jessica Salmon	Tommy Pirkle
<b>Greeters</b>	Buddy & Rae Cook			
<b>Ushers</b>	Chris Mize Wayne Mize Tommy Pirkle Debbie Mote			
<b>Open Bldg.</b>	Donald Smith	Bill Mote	Buddy & Rae Cook	Donald Smith
<b>Close Bldg.</b>	Lisa Parris	Jessica Robinson	Tracy Pirkle	Wayne & Chris Mize

### Prayer Concerns

We need your help to keep our prayer list current. Prayer requests will remain on the list for 4 weeks. **They may be added back on the list by request.** You may make requests / updates by submitting a blue pew card, calling the office (770-786-1629) or by emailing ([office@bpccovington.org](mailto:office@bpccovington.org)). Thank you!

Jane Asbel (Wagner)  
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)  
 The Family of Shane Beam (Mize)  
 Caitlin Burbige (O'Donnell)  
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)  
 C. C. for Christ – Marcin K. & Maciek M.  
 Jeff Clive (Clive)  
 Bill Cook (Cook)  
 Clyde Cook (Buddy Cook)  
 Jenzy Cook (Buddy Cook)  
 Sharon Corbitt (Boyce)  
 Mark Correll (Hunt)  
 Zach Foster  
 Bill & Margaret Frisbee (Boyce)  
 Terrie Greer (Douglas)  
 Clarence & Peggy Hensley (Boyce)  
 Dillon Large (Wagner)  
 Lynn Lewis  
 Irene Mize (W. Mize)  
 Jane & Bill Moore (Boyce)  
 Ray Mote  
 Carolyn Peters

Gary Phillips (J. Lewis)  
 Greg Phillips (J. Lewis)  
 Tracy Pirkle  
 Barbara Reynolds (Smith)  
 Jackie Rice (Boyce)  
 Sherri Rudasill  
 Larry Shoemate (King/Sullivan)  
 Bill Smith (Pirkle)  
 The Family of Gladys Smith (D. Smith)  
 Sandi Stanaitis (Boyce)  
 Joe Starr  
 Charlotte Sweeten  
 Brycen & Brenlee Wadsworth (Pirkle)  
 Polly Wagner (Wagner)  
 Lynn Waters  
 Ava Young (Pirkle)  
 Our Homebound  
 Our College Students  
 Our Military Men and Women



## Kid's Club / Youth Group News

Submitted by  
Elder Joe Lewis



Our kids will be posted at the doors of the sanctuary February 5, for the "Souper" bowl offering. We are hoping to collect \$1 from each person attending worship.

The next regular Kids club meeting will be on February 19, from 2:30 - 4:00pm at the church. Kids should come prepared to make their own homemade slime!



## Fun Seekers 2017

The Fun Seekers senior group was organized in 1986. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:00am in the fellowship hall. Each of their meetings include a time for announcements, a program, and lunch. Those interested are encouraged to prepare their favorite dish to share at lunch and come be an active part of this group.

Each year, participants are encouraged sign-up to be a host/hostess for one of the monthly meetings. Hosts or hostesses are responsible for setting up for that month's lunch and scheduling the program.

At the January meeting of Fun Seekers, Nancy Boyce and Cathy Cowan were elected as co-coordinators for the group.

There is tremendous encouragement and support found in this group of people. The average attendance of 25 has been consistent since the group's inception. We have room for anyone interested in attending, you don't have to be a senior or retired to join the fun!

We hope to see you on February 22, at 11:00 am!

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