



MARCH 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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## "What is Lent?"

Elder Tracy Pirkle

The word *Lent* (shortened from the Old English word *Lenten* meaning "spring season") is defined in Webster's dictionary as a period of 40 days before Easter during which many Christians do not eat certain foods or do certain pleasurable activities as a way of remembering the suffering of Jesus Christ. Many of us hear this word each year around this time but don't completely understand what it means or how to go about "participating" in it.

The season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. Like all Christian holy days and holidays, it has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence (feeling sorrow for our sins), demonstrated by denying ourselves so that we may be prepared for Easter.

Over the years Lent has evolved for many so as not to focus so much on the "giving up" or "denial" of something, but to focus on intentional devotion to God. By doing this it helps prepare us for a deeper and more meaningful experience as we observe Holy Week.

Our Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On Thursday we have our Maundy (meaning command) Thursday service where we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples, known as the Last Supper. During this meal Jesus humbled himself by washing the disciples feet, demonstrating how we should love and serve one another. We then observe Good Friday when our Savior suffered and died on the cross for our sins. Holy Week then concludes with Easter celebrating the resurrection of our Savior.

So what are some ways that we can observe Lent and be better prepared to experience Easter in a deeper and more meaningful way? For some it may mean "giving up" something in our life that may prevent us from spending time with God (television, playing a sport, eating sweets, etc.) Some may find it helpful to just spend some quiet time each day talking to God and listening for what he has to say. And others may find it necessary to have something to read like a devotional book or maybe one of the Psalms each day. Each person must find what works best for them.

Let me conclude by saying, it is not a requirement for Christians to do anything different during this season, but why not give it a try and see if the Lenten season becomes more meaningful and holy for you.

## Session Summary

Clerk of Session Sandi Thompson

The regular monthly meeting of the Bethany Session was held on Tuesday, February 21. The meeting was opened with prayer at 6:35 pm in the church office and a quorum was declared present.

Annie King presented the devotion reminding us that during hard times, our Lord is available. Annie then closed in prayer.

The financial report of January was reviewed and Elders were given the opportunity to clarify and ask questions. The report was then approved as received.

The Elders reviewed the prayer list, prepared prayer cards for mailing, and prayed for those on the list.

Dr. Myer's led a discussion about Bethany considering adding a policy regarding same-sex marriages to the church operating procedures. The Session reviewed a copy of the policy being used at another local Presbyterian church and agreed it would be a good thing for them to do. Stuart Clive offered to draft the policy and present it at the next meeting.

Dr. Myers also asked if the Session would consider allowing members of the congregation to pay their individual per capita assessment for Bethany to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, if they were so inclined. The Session decided to make this announcement at worship and if anyone was interested in knowing more, to see Sandi Thompson.

Bethany will be collecting pocket change during Lent to benefit FaithWorks. The collection baggies will be available on February 26, and be turned-in on Palm Sunday. The Session has budgeted \$250 for One Great Hour of Sharing which will be sent to Presbytery after Easter.

Dr. Myers offered to hold a Session retreat where they would discuss ideas and desires for the future of Bethany. The Session was receptive and will discuss a date during the next Session meeting. It was also suggested the AdHoc committee be invited to this retreat.

The following information was presented during the Clerk's Report:

- The Docket and minutes pending any corrections that need to be made were approved.
- Mallory Hannah Adams was received by Profession of Faith in worship on February 5.
- The Annual Statistical Report was completed and sent to Presbytery.
- The minutes of the Called Session Meeting on February 5, 2017 were approved.
- Tracy Pirkle and Stuart Clive gave a brief report on the February 4, Presbytery meeting they attended. This was received as information by common consent. The next Presbytery meeting is May 9, at Korean Community Presbyterian Church in Duluth from 4pm-8pm.
- A thank you was received from Columbia Theological Seminary for the gift of \$50 in memory of Dee Norris.
- A thank you was received from Thornwell for our gift of \$436.25 at given at Thanksgiving.

## Ministry Teams Highlights

- ◆ A work day to beautify the buildings and grounds for Easter will be held on Saturday, April 8.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 5-9. Kelly Lewis and Shannon Henderson will be our coordinators again. The theme this year will be on the stories and songs of old.
- ◆ Stuart Clive will be meeting with staff members individually to review their evaluations.
- ◆ The youth are wanting to raise funds through a bake sale to refurbish the AV loft. The Session requested more specific information at the next Session meeting. The Session expressed thanks for such enthusiasm from the youth to be involved in the life of Bethany.

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- ◆ The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team has pocket crosses for congregation members to give to those with whom they come in contact. The crosses will be available within the next few weeks.
- ◆ The annual audit of the church financial records is due. Chandler Salmon will be responsible for seeing that this is completed.
- ◆ Bethany, Conyers, and Smyrna Presbyterian Churches will participate in a joint Ash Wednesday Service on March 1 at 7 pm at Conyers Presbyterian Church. There will also be a soup and sandwich dinner served at 6:00pm. Bethany has been asked to bring 50 sandwiches. Please speak with Chris Mize if you are able to donate sandwiches.
- ◆ The cost of Easter Lilies is being determined and should be set before orders are taken March 19.
- ◆ Dr. Myers has agreed to preach at our Holy week worship services. Here is the schedule:
  - Palm Sunday, April 9, 11:00am
  - Maundy Thursday Service with communion on April 13, at 7:00 pm .
  - Easter Sunrise Service, April 16, at 7:00am with breakfast to follow. The men of the church will prepare the usual breakfast fare and others will be asked to bring drinks/juices, sweets and fruit.
  - Easter Worship Service, April 16, at 11:00am.
- ◆ It was approved to allow the Boy Scouts to use the Bethany facilities on May 13, so they may host a Merit Badge Clinic. They also hope to hold a CPR class that day for those interested and it will be open to Bethany members.
- ◆ The Member Care committee reviewed the active roll and will be reaching out to members who have not been active in the life of the church. It is their hope to encourage these members to re-commit to their participation in the life of the church.
- ◆ Sherill Foster and Suzanne Hooper were removed from the active roll. Sherill has joined Abiding Grace Lutheran Church and Suzanne has joined First Methodist of Marietta. The ending active membership is now 120.
- ◆ The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee is March 7.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 6:30pm Donald Smith will have the devotion. The meeting was closed in prayer by Tracy Pirkle at 8:30 pm.

### Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Elder Brandon Douglas

The Mission and Outreach team is so thankful for our church members. One of our biggest areas of support is the Sack lunch program, where we provide 150 lunches the last Saturday of each month to the needy in Porterdale and surrounding areas. January's sack lunch sign-up was looking slim, but as always, the members stepped up and provided. I can't thank everyone enough for the support you provide. It took less than 45 minutes to distribute all those sandwiches and help so many. We have been blessed again with an abundance of support this month for this awesome ministry!

The Lenten Season is almost here and I just want to remind everyone to collect their pocket change for the FaithWorks. As always, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Mission and Outreach here at Bethany.

# March 2017

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                             | Fri                              | Sat  |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
|   |   |   | 1<br>Joint Ash Wednesday<br>Service @ Conyers Pres.<br>Dinner – 6:00pm<br>Service – 7:00pm<br><br><b>Rebecca Hall</b> | 2                               | 3                                | 4<br>Rudasill/Starr Family<br>Fellowship Hall<br>12:00-3:00pm            |
| 5<br>Sunday School—9:30am<br>Morning Worship—11:00am<br>— Communion<br>Capes Family Reunion<br>Kid's Club Meeting<br>2:30-4:00pm<br><br><b>Layla Mote</b> | 6<br><br><b>Dylan Sears<br/>Natalie Staples</b> | 7<br>Ad Hoc Committee Mtg.<br>6:30pm<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00pm<br><br><b>Charlotte Sweeten</b>      | 8<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30pm   | 9                               | 10                               | 11   |
| 12 <b>DST Begins</b><br>Sunday School — 9:30am<br>Morning Worship — 11:00am   | 13<br>Girl Scouts<br>6:00-8:30pm                | 14<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00pm<br><br><b>Jordan McCullough</b>  | 15<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30pm<br><br><b>Paul Lewis<br/>Danielle Healy</b>  | 16                              | 17<br><br><b>Kathleen Hooper</b> | 18<br>Kid's Club to Sky Zone<br>2:00-5:00pm<br><br><b>Nancy Boyce</b>    |
| 19<br>Sunday School — 9:30am<br>Morning Worship — 11:00am   | 20<br><br><b>Sherri Rudasill</b>                | 21<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00pm  | 22<br>Fun Seekers<br>11:00am<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30pm  | 23<br><br><b>Virginia Bowen</b> | 24                               | 25<br>Sack Lunch Prep &<br>Delivery<br>10:00am<br><br><b>Kelly Lewis</b> |
| 26<br>Men's Breakfast — 7:30am<br>Sunday School — 9:30am<br>Cafe Connection — 10:30am<br>Morning Worship — 11:00am<br>- Newsletter Deadline               | 27<br>Girls Scouts<br>6:30-8:00pm               | 28<br>Session Meeting<br>6:30pm<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00pm<br><br><b>Sara Mote<br/>Jillian Smith</b> | 29<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30pm  | 30                              | 31<br><br><b>Jimmy Robinson</b>  |  |



Congratulations to **Hannah Douglas** for being one of five chosen from her elementary school to participate in the Statewide Elementary Honor Chorus. This chorus included over 500 students from across the state of Georgia and performed at the Classic Center in Athens. We are proud of Hannah for receiving such an honor!

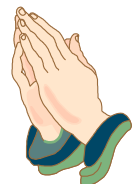
| Monthly Volunteers        |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|                           | March 5  | March 12   | March 19   | March 26   |
| <b>Children's Worship</b> | Jessica Salmon   | Kelly Lewis  | Tina Douglas   | Adrienne Mote  |
| <b>Liturgists</b>         | Stuart Clive   | Barbara Smith  | Dennis Mills   | Tommy McFarlin   |
| <b>Greeters</b>           | Ansley Douglas<br>Carolyn Sullivan                                 | Ansley Douglas<br>Carolyn Sullivan                                 | Ansley Douglas<br>Carolyn Sullivan                                 | Ansley Douglas<br>Carolyn Sullivan                                 |
| <b>Ushers</b>             | Carolyn Sullivan<br>Bill Mote<br>Sandi Thompson<br>Danny Douberley | Carolyn Sullivan<br>Bill Mote<br>Sandi Thompson<br>Danny Douberley | Carolyn Sullivan<br>Bill Mote<br>Sandi Thompson<br>Danny Douberley | Carolyn Sullivan<br>Bill Mote<br>Sandi Thompson<br>Danny Douberley |
| <b>Open Bldg.</b>         | Donald Smith   | Bill Mote  | Buddy & Rae Cook   | Men's Breakfast  |
| <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)  
 Ellie Ball (Boyce)  
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)  
 Judy Branch (Pirkle)  
 Penny Britt (Cook)  
 Caitlin Burbige (O'Donnell)  
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)  
 Helen Burke (O'Donnell)  
 Evie Chaffey (Coggin)  
 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)  
 Tom & Susan Holmes  
 Lynn Lewis  
 Betty M. (O'Donnell)  
 Irene Mize (W. Mize)

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





### Kid's Club / Youth Group News

Submitted by  
Elder Joe Lewis

The Kid's Club met on February 19, and made their own slime. The kids discovered that combining Borax (a cleaner) and water to some glue makes the liquid become a solid. We compared the Borax to God and how if we invite him into our hearts he cleanses us and makes us stronger. After we made our slime we ventured outdoors to enjoy the wonderful weather. We had 6 kids at this meeting. Our

next Kid's Club meeting is scheduled for March 5, from 2:30 to 4:00pm.

We also have a trip to Sky Zone in McDonough planned on March 18, from 2:00- 5:00pm. The cost of this event will be \$15. Parents will need to make sure that we have a waiver on file with Sky Zone before we depart for this event. Please see Joe or Kelly Lewis to coordinate ticket purchase. Children may want to bring extra money to purchase any drinks or snacks.



Easter is right around and the corner and we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for ALL children on April 15. Please consider donating non-chocolate candy to fill the eggs.



Mallory Adams has been attending Bethany since she was a little girl. Recently, she made the decision to join the church. She met with Dr. Myers to receive confirmation instruction and to learn what it means to be an active church member.

On Sunday, February 5, she was examined by the Session and received into membership. She made her Profession of Faith at worship that same morning. We rejoice with Mallory about her decision and welcome her as our newest member!

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