



FEBRUARY 2018

# Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bill Herndon

### Secretary

Tina Douglas

### Financial Manager

Lisa Parris

### Director of Music

Barbara Lawson

### Pianist

Carolyn Peters

## SESSION MEMBERS

### 2018

Brandon Douglas

Lawson Hooper

Bill Mote

Tracy Pirkle

### 2019

Shannon Henderson

Paul Lewis

Lanier Mote

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## “Reflections”

## Elder Lanier Mote

Well, January is behind us now and we are starting to get back in the swing of a regular schedule after the year end. Christmas events here at church; Family gatherings, and of course, Santa for the young and old ones. Good times for some, bad times for some. We all experience them. Dealing with these situations is different for everyone. We pray for God's help in the bad times, then praise Him in the good times; well sometimes we do. Does this mean we are not committed? No, its priorities. Many times I've used or heard some pretty lame excuses for not doing what the Bible tells us. Oh man, I'm tired, think I'll not go to church today, but shortly after 12 we are off to do our favorite activities. It's a miracle, no priority.

Reflecting back in time on my life in this church to childhood, everything revolved around this church. Anything planned was around church, no exceptions. Vacation ended on Saturday's to be at church on Sunday. This is commitment to God and church. You say, times were different then, yes they were. Stores didn't open on Sundays back then.

The last 20 years or so I've worked as a part time semi-professional musician. It's a God given ability to develop this gift. It's not easy, I'm not a virtuoso that just picks up an instrument and music just flows from it. I've spent hours, days and weeks working on one song to get it right. When creating a 30 second solo for a song, countless hours are spent. An early instructor taught me this "Muscle Memory". This is when you learn or create your solo the way you want it, then play at slow speeds until you know it completely then gradually to the tempo it's to be played at. These repeated efforts gradually develop into that Muscle Memory, and it's like second nature playing.

Interesting concept, right. This could apply well in our spiritual and church life today, making God and Church, prayer, devotion, and attendance a priority. The list is long of actions we should do, but we don't practice them except at our convenience. No Muscle Memory. It's easier to ignore the situation than confront it.

I read this recently and it is so true, if you're a mature believer who falls in this category like myself. Pick up a spoon and feed yourself. Then start serving and feeding others.

The church is not a marketplace where we pick the spiritual products we like. The church is a community that worships Jesus together, a family that cares for each other, a team that goes out to bless others in Jesus' name.

People don't become giants of the faith by hearing better sermons. They do so by drawing closer to Jesus and living better lives as a result.

## Session Summary

Clerk of Session Paul Lewis

**B**ethany Session was held on January 16, 2018, in the church office. The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Herndon at 6:30pm and a quorum was declared present.

Rev. Herndon talked about "Chosen by God" and how we are chosen. We were encouraged to not to procrastinate with God. Everything in our life should go to pleasing God. Rev. Herndon then closed in prayer.

**Financial**

Lisa Parris

The Financial reports were reviewed and elders were given the opportunity to clarify and ask questions. 2 Certificates of Deposit's were moved. 2017 Benevolences were paid. Financial report approved.

**Prayer Cards/Concerns**

The Prayer List was reviewed and updated.

**Pastor's Comments/Concerns**

Rev. Herndon

Shrove/Pancake Tuesday Supper is planned by Brandon Douglas for 2/13 from 5:30-7:00 pm  
 Member/Confirmation Class begin February 4 - March 25 9:30-10:30 Sunday Mornings.  
 Lenten in Lent: Ash Wednesday - Service planned on February 14 Noon and 7 pm, Imposition of Ashes. Palm Sunday Service 3/25. Good Friday Community Service on 3/30; Easter Sunrise Service is being planned.

**Clerk's Report**

Paul Lewis

Starting membership - Membership – 129, Ending Membership 125: Ken Frederick moved to Milstead Baptist Church, Lynn Waters and family moved their letter to Tallapoosa Presbyterian Church, Danny Douberley and Sandi Thompson moved to Eastridge Community Church.

**Correspondence:**

Meeting of the Corporation was held December 31, 2017 and the following officers were elected: Corporate Secretary: Tina Douglas, CEO: Lawson Hooper CFO: Paul Lewis. Meeting notes approved and received into record.

The Annual Statistical Report package received from Presbytery.

**Reports from Ministry Teams****Mission and Outreach**

Shannon Henderson

Sack lunch program still a strong mission with a surplus on supplies

**Administration/Stewardship and Finance**

Lawson Hooper

Staff Updates - Treasurer Lisa Parris approved for a term of 1 year ending 12/31/2018  
 Information shared on Commitment forms

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Worship**

Lanier Mote

Sound System - Working on ordering equipment  
Scout Sunday will be February 11.

**Building and Grounds**

Bill Mote

Heating and Air unit in Nursery being reviewed for possible replacement.

**Christian Education/Children and Youth**

Brandon Douglas

Summer Camps and Conferences being planned with new locations being researched.  
Camp Calvin "The Edge" at Covenant College will be offered.

VBS is being planned for June 4-8

"Souper" Bowl Offering planned for February 4 with monies going to Newton County Food Bank

**Member Care/Hospitality**

Tracy Pirkle

Membership list updated with 26 being moved to inactive members (list will be reported in the next session meeting) and 4 being moved to another church. The membership list will now have 95 active members.

**Old/New Business**

Congregational Meeting to elect members for the elder nomination committee will be identified next session meeting and scheduled.

The Docket and minutes pending any corrections that need to be made were approved.

The next regular meeting of the session will be on February 20, 2018 and Tracy Pirkle will have the devotion. The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Bill Herndon at 8:24pm.

**Confirmation/New Member Class** begins  
February 4 at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall.  
If you didn't sign up and want to join the  
class contact Rev. Herndon for more  
information.

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Jaxson Lewis	2	3 Emmett Chapman Rita McCullough
4 Sunday School—9:30am Confirmation/New Member Class 9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am —Communion Sunday	5	6 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	7 Choir Practice 6:30pm  Ann Bailey	8	9 Jim Parney	10 Girl Scouts 6-9:00pm
11 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> Sunday School — 9:30am Confirmation/New Member Class 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am — Scout Sunday Kids Club/ Youth Group	12 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	13 Pancake Supper 5:30-7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Brylie Lewis Nora King	14 Ash Wednesday Services 12pm & 7:00pm (Imposition of Ashes) No Choir Practice	15	16	17 Rudasill Family 12-4:00pm
18 Sunday School — 9:30am Confirmation/New Member Class 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	19	20 Session Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	21 Choir Practice 6:30pm  Brandon Douglas Jeff Hall	22	23	24 Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery 10:00am  Ricky Mote Aubrey Pullen
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Confirmation/New Member Class 9:30am Café Connections — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Newsletter Deadline Kids Club/ Youth Group	26 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	27 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	28 Fun Seekers — 11am Choir Practice 6:30pm			

Monthly Volunteers				
	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
<b>Children's Worship</b>	Kelly Lewis	Tina Douglas	Adrienne Mote	Kelly Lewis
<b>Liturgists</b>	Dennis Mills	Schylar Parris	Tommy McFarlin	Bill Foster
<b>Greeters</b>	Lawson & Joanne Hooper			
<b>Ushers</b>	Buddy Cook Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Carolyn Sullivan			
<b>Open Bldg.</b>	Buddy & Rae Cook	Bill Mote	Lawson Hooper	Men of the Church
<b>Close Bldg.</b>	Carolyn Peters	Lisa Parris	Tracy Pirkle	Brandon & Tina Douglas



### 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!

Lee Allen  
 Ann Bailey  
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)  
 Judy Branch (Pirkle)  
 Pug Buttrill (Cook)  
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)  
 Evelyn Capes  
 C. C. for Christ – Marcin K. & Maciek M.  
 Stuart Clive  
 Rick Comminsky (B. Hunt)  
 Bill Cook (B. & R. Cook)  
 Clyde Cook  
 Willene Davis (Ann Herndon)  
 Nancy Fullerton (Sheri Gahwiler's Mom)  
 Zach Foster  
 Joey Hancock (L. Mote)  
 George Hushour (L. Mote)  
 Donovan Jervise (O'Donnell)  
 Kathrine Kohler (Boyce)  
 Mike Landers (B. Hunt)  
 Jeffery LeMoine (C. Hunt)

Lily Lensink (R. Cook)  
 Grady & Judy McMahan (Boyce)  
 Irene Mize (W. Mize)  
 Jane & Bill Moore (Boyce)  
 Becky Newman (C. Hunt)  
 Marcus Phillips (O'Donnell)  
 Elean Quackenbush (T. Quackenbush)  
 Thomas Sexton (Boyce)  
 Travis Sexton (Boyce)  
 Josh Starr  
 Charlotte Sweeten  
 Mitchell Wheeler (Mize)  
 Lamar Wilkes (B. Hunt)  
 John Wilburn (Boyce)  
 Ralph Williamson  
 Ava Young (Pirkle)  
 Our College Students  
 Our Military Men and Women  
 Our Session — those completing their service and those preparing to serve.



## Special Thanks

Thanks to everyone at Bethany who continue to support all we are doing. The ministry teams depend on each member of the church to pitch in and do what they can to help pull things together for the benefit of all of us. The continued support of the Sack Lunch Program allows for people to receive meals when they otherwise might not. The dedication to the Food Pantry helps provide meals to those struggling too. Our winter mission outreach for warm outer wear as well as other items helped many. These community minded projects can't happen without all of us. The dedication shown for our inner-church activities take many folks to accomplish....The youth activities, worship preparation, member care, social (special events, café connection, etc.) So many are so faithful....thanks to all.

## Help Still Needed

We are in need of:

- Volunteers to help with the nursery when our nursery worker Sheri Gahwiler is out.
- Volunteers to help with Children's Worship.
- Volunteers to help with the opening and closing of the buildings.

Anyone who wants to volunteer their help with these ministries around the church, please contact Tina Douglas in the office.

## Kid's Club / Youth Group News

Submitted by  
Brandon  
Douglas

January has come and gone!! The youth have been working on plans for the New Year. I see great things to come out of this group and look forward to watching each one of our members grow closer with GOD this year. We are encouraging the youth to invite friends so that we can build the youth program here at Bethany. We have decided to meet 2 times a month and are averaging around 9-10 youth each meeting.

Our first meeting this month was on January 14 and we discussed how everyone is different and made snow flakes that were added to the Youth Group bulletin board found in the Assembly Room; take a minute to check it out. The second meeting was on January 28. We discussed about showing gratitude towards others. We made cards for the sick and shut-ins in our church family. Then we split the group some going to handbell practice with Barbara Lawson. The others stay to play games. They love playing hide-and-go seek; we have some really great hidiers.

We are excited to announce that the middle school age group we will be attending the "THE EDGE" at Covenant College this year with 5 youth attending. This is the first year in a very long time that we have had middle schoolers that were able to attend. Also, the elementary age kids will be attending Camp Calvin. We have 4 youth interested in signing up for this camp.





## Praise Notes



Submitted by Barbara Lawson

*I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned and heard my cry.  
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.  
He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.*

*Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done,  
the things you planned for us.*

*None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds,  
they would be too many to declare.*

*Psalm 40:1-5*

The Gospel is the stunning story of Christ coming into the world—to lift us up and set us on solid ground. That's something to sing about! The Gospel and worship are inseparably linked. We don't worship Jesus because we *ought* to; we give Him praise because He has given us life. We experience His mercy and grace, and that's all the music we need! So, because you are alive in Him today, sing redemption's song. If you have been set free, sing the name of the One who freed you. His salvation is where our song comes from.

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy Name!  
Christ is the Lord!  
Oh, praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Father, let my whole life sing Your song! CATCH THE SPIRIT! Join the choir and sing with us!

*We want to thank everyone for all prayers for  
our son Bill. He has finished chemo. Please  
continue prayers for him.*

*Buddy and Rae Cook*

We are updating our church records, if you want to be added to our update please return this form to the church office.

**Bethany Presbyterian Church**  
**Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

We are

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
1002 Bethany Road  
Covington, GA 30016  
Phone: 770-786-1629  
Fax: 770-786-9676  
E-mail: office@bpcovington.org