



DECEMBER 2018

# Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor**

**Secretary**

Tina Douglas

**Financial Manager**

Lisa Parris

**Pianist**

Carolyn Peters

## SESSION MEMBERS

**2019**

Shannon Henderson

Paul Lewis

Lanier Mote

**2020**

Stuart Clive

Brandon Douglas

Dennis Mills

Tracy Pirkle

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## “Rough Christmas”

Elder Dennis Mills

*If you are like me, sometimes you may catch yourself complaining about little things during the Christmas season. You may wonder, “Why is this happening to me?” or “Why does this have to be so difficult? Is God punishing me?” Then I am reminded of the very first Christmas. Mary and Joseph’s experience didn’t exactly center around Black Friday deals or the latest iPhone technology.*

- *Joseph was out of work for several weeks because the government had made him travel a long way off to complete registration papers.*
- *Mary had to endure all of the whispers and speculation surrounding her pregnancy.*
- *Can you imagine embarking on a four-day donkey ride to Bethlehem at full term? I suppose her only option would be to walk/waddle the distance.*
- *How about taking a camping trip with the winter winds blowing through your tent - or maybe no tent at all?*
- *Think about the added stress of going through labor in a filthy cattle barn?*
- *Then, in the middle of the night after a long and painful labor, there’s a strange shepherd banging on the barn door.*

*Why would God allow His own Son to be born in those conditions? Was He angry with Mary and Joseph? I don’t think so. Many believe that God allowed the stable scene so we could see His glory backlit amongst the most humbling of life’s experiences. It appears that he wanted to remind us that life does have its annoyances and downturns, but He is with us through every moment during these times. His plan is being worked out through you and me right now.*

*I suppose Christmas is a time each year that encourages us to look beyond our petty grievances and aggravations. God is working in our*

*(Continued on page 6)*

Clerk of Session Paul Lewis

The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Myers at 7:01 pm in the Church office and a quorum was declared present

**Boy Scouts****Daniel Mote**

The annual review of the Boy Scout Charter was completed and approved for renewal. Stuart Clive will handle all required paperwork.

**Financial****Lisa Parris**

The Financial reports were reviewed

**Prayer Cards/Concerns**

The Prayer List was reviewed and updated. Prayer cards were sent to those in need.

**Pastor's Comments/Concerns****Rev. Myers**

Rev. Myers requested to be added to the phone tree

Calvin center information received

Friends of Forman newsletter discussed

A report of the Presbytery meeting of November 10 was received. Next Presbytery meetings are Saturday, February 9, May 4, August 17 and Tuesday, November 12

**Clerk's Report****Paul Lewis**

Starting membership - Membership – 103, Ending Membership 102 with death of faith of Grier Sims

Correspondence: The received correspondence was passed around for session to read

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

- Parade planned for December 1

*Administration/Stewardship and Finance**Stuart Clive*

- 2019 Budget final received and approved
- Completed Stewardship drive forms being received

*Worship**Dennis Mills*

- Thanksgiving Eve Service will be done by Al Myers at 7 pm
- Poinsettias being ordered

*(Continued on page 3)*

*Building and Grounds**Lainer Mote*

- Discussed Choir Room Remodel/Reorganization
- Getting HVAC Maintenance quotes tabled until next meeting
- Reported Bell Choir Room move to office on hold

*Christian Education/Children and Youth**Brandon Douglas*

- Planning a Christmas party for youth
- Plans for Joy Gift Program being worked on

*Member Care/Hospitality**Tracy Pirkle*

- Christmas Dinner being planned for December 9

**Old/New Business**

Staff gifts discussed and approved

Communion scheduled discussed, next one will be December 23 by Rev. Al Myers

Spirit front page article responsibility will be December - Dennis Mills

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

The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:20 pm.

Next Session Meeting: December 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Al Myers scheduled to be Moderator

**Mission and Outreach****Elder Shannon Henderson**

**T**his Christmas we will be collecting can food for our "12 Hundred Cans of Christmas Drive." This is a large number but if you think about it that is 12 can from each member of Bethany. We will be partnering with Livingston Elementary School to collect these cans. All donations will be given to the Newton County Food Bank and the Local Homeless Shelter. Boxes for the cans will be located in the Assembly Room.

Thank you for all of your help in preparing for Bethany's second Covington Christmas Parade float. We have already started to brainstorm on ideas for next year.

Don't forget we will be preparing the Sack Lunches for Porterdale on December 29 at 10.00am. There is always a great need in this program. Please continue praying for these outreach. Carolyn Peters and Tina Douglas have added more families to their shut in list. These are families in great need.

As always thanks for your continued support of all the Mission and Outreach Programs here at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Covington Christmas Parade 10am
2 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am	3	4 Boy Scouts 7-9pm  <b>Bobbie Mote</b>	5 Fun Seekers @ Tiffany's 11:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm	6	7	8 Robinson Family 11am-3:00pm Clive Family 5:00pm  Daniel Mote Ron Sweeten
9 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Church Christmas Dinner/Joy Gift Program 6:00pm  <b>Cathy Cowan</b>	10 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	11 Boy Scouts 7-9pm Session Meeting 7:00pm	12 Choir Practice 6:30pm	13  <b>Russell Sears</b>	14	15  <b>Joe Starr</b>
16 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am	17	18 Boy Scouts 7-9pm  <b>McKenna Smith</b>	19 Choir Practice 6:30pm	20	21  <b>Andrew Mote</b>	22
23 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Newsletter Deadline Youth Group Christmas Party 2:30-4:00pm  <b>Tommy Pirkle</b>	24 <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30pm</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26 Choir Practice 6:30pm  <b>Linda Stevens</b>	27	28	29 Cleaning of the Church 9:00am Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery 10:00am <b>Buddy Cook Wayne Mize Joan Wagner Avery White</b>
30 Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Café Connections — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Newsletter Deadline Youth Group — 2:30-4:00pm	31 <b>News Year's Eve</b>					

**Monthly Volunteers**

	<b>December 2</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>December 30</b>
<b>Liturgists</b>	Stuart Clive	Tommy Pirkle	Schylar Parris	Bill Foster	Chris Mize
<b>Greeters</b>	Debbie & Lanier Mote	Debbie & Lanier Mote	Debbie & Lanier Mote	Debbie & Lanier Mote	Debbie & Lanier Mote
<b>Ushers</b>	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne Mize	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne Mize
<b>Open Bldg.</b>	Buddy & Rae Cook	Bill Mote	Lawson Hooper	Brandon & Tina Douglas	Men of the Church
<b>Close Bldg.</b>	Carolyn Peters	Lisa Parris	Chris & Wayne Mize	Tracy Pirkle	Brandon & Tina Douglas



**Prayer Concerns**

We need your help to keep our prayer list current. 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!

- Becky Alexander (Boyce)
- Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)
- Billy Jo (Boyce)
- Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
- Evelyn Capes
- Charlotte Bratton (Boyce)
- Connolly Family (O'Donnell)
- Office Matt Cooper (Facebook Update)
- Harvey Farmer
- Jim Fan (Parney)
- Margaret Frisbee (Boyce)
- Nancy Fullerton (Sheri Gahwiler's Mom)
- Arlene Ford (O'Donnell)
- Zach Foster
- Bobby Glover ( R. Cook)
- Joey Hancock (L. Mote)
- Hazel (Peters)
- Josh (Boyce)
- Helen Kohler (Boyce)
- Jeffery LeMoine (C. Hunt)
- Mike Lipscomb (Peters)
- Betty Malik (O'Donnell)
- Marty & Children (Boyce)

- Grady & Judy McMahan (Boyce)
- Kim McNeal (B. Hunt)
- Irene Mize (W. Mize)
- Jane & Bill Moore (Boyce)
- Debbie Payne
- Marcus Phillips (O'Donnell)
- Doris Salzer (L. Mote)
- Schuitema Family (Parney)
- The Family of Grier Sims
- John Spears (Cook)
- Jacob Sorrells
- Charlotte Sweeten
- McKenzie Raines and her dad
- Matt Tan (Parney)
- Gloria Tisius (O'Donnell)
- Mitchell Wheeler (Mize)
- Lamar Wilkes (B. Hunt)
- Ava Young (Pirkle)
- Our Church Family
- Our College Students
- Our Military Men and Women
- Our Session



*lives. If we can rise above the everyday noise and focus a little higher, we might even be able to get a glimpse of the Christmas star.*

## *Merry Christmas!*

Source – “Bum Deal at Christmas” by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

**D**on't let this date slip away Fun Seekers. We will be having our ANNUAL Christmas Luncheon Wednesday December 5, 2018 @ 11:00. It will be at Tiffany's Buffet in Covington. This is the SAME place as last year. Price for the seniors will be \$8.99 + tax. This will combine the November and December Fun Seekers Meetings. Everyone is invited to attend even if you are not a regular fun-seeker or senior. Please let Joanne or Lawson Hooper know if you are planning to attend.

### “Who's Preaching”

#### December

Dec. 2 — Rev. Al Myers  
 Dec. 9 — Rev. Al Myers  
 Dec. 16—Rev. Al Myers  
 Dec. 23 — Rev. Al Myers  
 Dec. 24 — Rev. Bill Harris  
 Dec. 30 — Rev. Al Myers



**JESUS** is  
 the Reason  
 for the  
**Season.**

### A Special Thanks

Thank you to all who gave money to our special offering in the month of November.

Thornwell Offering — \$292.25

Thanksgiving Eve Service — \$100  
 for the Newton County Food Bank

Christian Education Ministry Team

Elder Brandon Douglas

**W**ith our current Sunday School quarter coming to an end this Sunday and a new quarter beginning on December 2 we are excited about the new lesson material we will be diving into. The Lord always welcomes us to learn more about His word, and Sunday School is the perfect place to do that. Our Adult class will be continuing our studies from the Bible Studies for Life book. Our Youth and Kid's Sunday School groups will also continue their exciting lessons and activities. As always, please come out and join us for fellowship and fun on Sunday mornings at 9:30am - you'll be glad you did!

## Annual Christmas Dinner and Joy Gift Program

Bethany's Annual Christmas Dinner will be on December 9, at 6:00. This year's dinner will be like our Family Night Supper; everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. We look forward to this great time of fellowship with our church family. Everyone is invited.

We hope you plan to attend our annual Joy Gift Christmas Program following the Dinner at 7:00pm. This year will feature a short drama called "*Bethlehem Speaks*" by Rochelle Pennington. (Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.) This will present the traditional Christmas story through the use of dialogues, scripture readings and congregational singing.

The Joy Gift offering will be taken during the program. This offering provides financial assistance to current and former PCUSA church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. We will also be thanking our church staff for their service throughout the past year. It's a night you won't want to miss, so please bring your friends and family too.



# Merry Christmas

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

This beautiful and meaningful service begins at 5:30 pm. The churchyard will be decorated with luminaries (weather permitting) in memory of Florence Sears, Grier Sims and Carolyn Sullivan who passed away this year. We hope you will plan to celebrate Christmas with us, and be sure to invite your friends and family to join you!



### Kid's Club / Youth Group News

Submitted by  
Brandon  
Douglas

The month of November was a busy month for the Youth Group. We have worked on the parade float and practiced for the Joy Gift Program. We hope you make time to come see the program December 9 at 7:00. This is always an

exciting time for the youth as they get to shine for the night.

Tina Douglas and I have been working on plans for the month of December. One being a youth Christmas Party. We hope all are able to meet at the church December 23 at our regular time. We will be making a sign-up sheet for special snacks for that day. We would also like every youth, leader and any parents that would like to join us; to bring an ornament for a gift swap. We are looking forward to this fun time and excited to celebrate this wonderful season with this great Youth Group.

Be on the look out for upcoming plans in the New Year.

*“For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given To us;  
and the government  
will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be  
called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Eternal Father,  
Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6

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