



APRIL 2019

Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Tina Douglas

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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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“SPRING CLEANING”

Elder Brandon Douglas

It's time that we all start our spring cleaning. We all have stuff tucked away that needs to be cleaned out of our house. We may finally get around to doing that dusting that we all put off though out the year. We can use this time to declutter and organize the stuff that we have. Some of us may get the yard cleaned up or pressure wash the house. I know at our house we seem to try to do all of the above.

As Christians we should also look at ourselves for cleaning. By that I mean that maybe its time we try some “spiritual spring cleaning.” We all need to step back and look inside ourselves from time to time. I feel like this is a good time of the year to do that here are some suggestions on how we can make this happen:

We can **“eliminate clutter”** in our life. We need to get rid of distractions that keep us from spending time with God. This doesn't mean leaving everything that we enjoy doing but making it a point to spend more time with God and studying the Bible daily. If we just spend a little less time on social media, watching T.V., or even shopping; that could open up time to spend on God, and who knows bring you closer to people sitting in the room with you. I know in our house we have started doing a family bible study together every day or at least try to every day.

We can **“scrub away dirt and disinfect”** stuff in our life. This may be stuff in our daily lives that we really don't even realize that we do. It could be the way we talk to one another or our attitudes. We may be judgmental towards people or even have anger, fear, or selfishness. Maybe we are struggling with a bad habit or behavior. We need to ask God to help us with each of these. We can also try to replace the negative stuff with positive thoughts and actions. If you feel like you are going back into the bad routines we should pray for God to help us overcome the temptation.

We can **“vacuum”** stuff in our life. This could be things in our lives that accumulate, like small things that people do to annoy you. It could be that someone offended you or you got in a minor argument. We need to be willing to let the issues go. We must be willing to forgive them just as God has forgiven us. We need to trust him to get us through the forgiveness process.

We can **“dust”** stuff in our life. We can wipe away stuff from our past in order to move forward in our lives. We can do this by asking God to show us ways

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Clerk of Session Paul Lewis

The meeting was opened by Rev. Myers at 7:00 pm in the Church office and a quorum was declared present. Stuart Clive had a devotional from the Book of James 1:2-8 "Trials" closed in prayer.

Financial Lisa Parris
The Financial reports were reviewed and approved.

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 discussed Church Signage, referred to Building & Grounds to research local sign ordinance. Rev. Myers passed along information on Foreman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan, who we support for our mission
Elder greeter for after worship assigned
Tracy Pirkle elected to attend Presbytery meeting on Saturday, May 4 at Korean Community Church, Duluth
A New Member Orientation is scheduled for Sunday, April 7 with all who attend possibly joining the church Sunday Easter April 21

Clerk's Report Paul Lewis
Starting membership - Membership -77. Ending membership - 77
Correspondence: The received correspondence was passed around for session to read

Reports from Ministry Teams

Mission and Outreach Shannon Henderson
Discussed Rockdale Refuge Pregnancy Center's upcoming events
Nancy Boyce Volunteered to run sack lunch program
Baby Bottle Campaign will begin on Mother's Day with 40 bottles
Cup Cakes for teachers at Livingston planned for Monday, April 8. Also, planning something for students.
Discussed signs for Sunrise, Easter Service and VBS. Approved to purchase from budget

Administration/Stewardship and Finance Stuart Clive
Stuart reported that the Pastor Search Committee will meet with Joy Fisher (Presbytery) on March 28, 2019

Worship Dennis Mills
Sunrise Service being planned with the Youth, Tina Douglas is leading

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Communion planned for Maundy Thursday, April 18
 Easter Lilies being planned, ordering will end March 31 (getting from Kroger)

Building and Grounds

Lainer Mote

Lanier sent his report in, Work day scheduled for Saturday, April 13 to get ready for Easter

Christian Education/Children and Youth

Brandon Douglas

The Summer Conference for Youth will be June 20-23. House rented, speaker planned. Youth will be asking for food donations for the conference.

Easter Egg Hunt planned for 11 am on Saturday, April 20

VBS planning for June 10-14

Discussed Palm Sunday planning youth will parade with palms

Member Care/Hospitality

Tracy Pirkle

Family night supper planned for March 31 at 6pm (covered dish)

Easter Sunrise Breakfast planned, Men of the Church will cook

New member supper being planned for Sunday, May 5

Old/New Business

- Spirit front page article responsibility will be April - Brandon Douglas, May - Tracy Pirkle, June - Lainer Mote, July - Shannon Henderson, August - Stuart Clive, September - Shannon Henderson
- Devotional for April will be Dennis Mills
- The Elder Nomination Committee will be formed different this year by asking 1 male and 1 female to serve with Lanier Mote (committee chair). The three Elders rolling off session are Lanier Mote, Shannon Henderson and Paul Lewis, they will be asking folks to serve on the Nominating Committee. Announcement for a Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, April 28 the meeting will be Sunday, May 12 for the Congregation to elect the Elder Nominating Committee, names will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, May 12.
- The Docket and minutes pending any corrections that need to be made were approved.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:45 pm.

Next Session Meetings: April 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Al Myers scheduled to be Moderator

May 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Al Myers scheduled to be Moderator

Springtime is finally here! We have warmer temperatures and the rain has been reduced to the perfect amount and frequency needed to green all of our yards. Easter lilies are about to be ordered as Easter is only a few short weeks away (April 21st). We are currently in the season of Lent, and in the middle of our special sermon series that will take place each of the seven Sundays of Lent. Dr. Al Meyers is continuing his sermon series based on the last seven words of Christ. I know we will all be looking forward to his building on that message to Bethany during that time. Please make plans to join us each and every Sunday during this incredible season for worship and fellowship! We will see you there!

Dennis Mills

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Choir Practice 6:30pm Bill Mate	4 Megan Quackenbush	5 Darryl Droba Don Wagner Kylie Douglas	6
7 Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am Bell Choir Practice	8 Girl Scouts 6:30- 8:30pm	9 Boy Scouts 7-9pm James "JD" Mate	10 Choir Practice 6:30pm	11 Boy Scouts 7-9pm	12	13
14 Palm Sunday Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am Bell Choir Practice Youth Group Progressive Lunch	15	16 Boy Scouts 7-9pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Diane Lewis	17 Choir Practice 6:30pm	18 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm (Communion)	19 Good Friday	20 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am
21 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7:00am Easter Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am — One Great Hour of Sharing — Newsletter Deadline	22 Girl Scouts 6:30- 8:30pm	23 Boy Scouts 7-9pm	24 Fun Seekers — 11:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm	25 Boy Scouts 7-9pm Billy Hunt	26 Riley Mate	27 Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery 10:00am
28 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am Youth Group 2:30-4:00pm Shannon Henderson	29	30 Boy Scouts 7-9pm				

HAPPY EASTER

Monthly Volunteers				
	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Liturgists	Tommy Pirkle	Schylar Parris	Bill Foster	Chris Mize
Greeters	Brandon & Kylie Douglas			
Ushers	Chris Mize Wayne Mize Debbie Mote Tommy Pirkle			
Open Bldg.	Buddy & Rae Cook	Bill Mote	Brandon & Tina Douglas	Lawson Hooper
Close Bldg.	Carolyn Peters	Lisa Parris	Chris & Wayne Mize	Tracy Pirkle



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). Thank you!

Becky Alexander (Boyce)
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)
 Benjamin (Boyce)
 Billy Jo (Boyce)
 Donna Borngraber (O'Donnell)
 Charlotte Bratton (Boyce)
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
 Evelyn Capes
 Bill Cobb (R. Cook)
 Connie (Boyce)
 Caleb Ellis (Henderson)
 Jim Fan (Parney)
 Jeff Flowers (Boyce)
 Margaret Frisbee (Boyce)
 Nancy Fullerton (Sheri Gahwiler's Mom)
 Neal (Boyce)
 Zach Foster
 Bobby Glover (R. Cook)
 Michelle Glover (Boyce)
 Carol Hageman (O'Donnell)
 Hazel (Peters)
 Kim (Boyce)
 Helen Kohler (Boyce)
 Jeffery LeMoine (C. Hunt)

Livingston Elementary Staff and Students
 Mike Lipscomb (Peters)
 Gayle Marchman (McCullough)
 Mary Alice (O'Donnell)
 Grady & Judy McMahan (Boyce)
 Kim McNeal (B. Hunt)
 Irene Mize (W. Mize)
 Jane & Bill Moore (Boyce)
 Marcus Phillips (O'Donnell)
 Terry Pratt (Parney)
 Schuitema Family (Parney)
 John Spears (Cook)
 Pam Spignor (Henderson)
 Jacob Sorrells
 Ron & Charlotte Sweeten
 Matt Tan (Parney)
 Mitchell Wheeler (Mize)
 Lamar Wilkes (B. Hunt)
 Ava Young (Pirkle)
 Our Church Family
 Our College Students
 Our Military Men and Women
 Our Session



we need healing from past traumas and losses. Then patiently work through healing as God leads you. Clearing the dust can really help with a clear future with God.

We need to **“polish”** our lives. We can make our relationship with God Shine by serving others as God has lead you to. We need to be creative about figuring out how we can bless others through our words and actions. Even a small act of kindness can make a positive difference in our lives as well as the person you help or just by being kind to them. We should always be on the lookout for opportunities to encourage and help others.

We need to **“organize”** our lives. We need to rearrange our lives so that we can have new dreams. By clearing out our own agenda to invite God in to show us what he wants us to do with our lives. We need to focus more on what is important in our lives rather than what is urgent. Set a small goal to achieve and then move on to something else. If that means that you will set aside 5 minutes a day for some God time that is fine.

So will you as the Bethany Congregation join me in some SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING? Now is a great time to start that process as we come up on the Easter season. This is a good time as well because we have several things coming up in our church that we will be needing help with or just if you want to show up for. We have Sack lunch that is the last Saturday of every month that could always use more hands, men’s breakfast is the last Sunday of every month, and Sunday school. We also have some seasonal events coming up to include Easter sunrise service with a covered dish breakfast afterwards, the Easter egg hunt, and a church work day. There is plenty of opportunity within our church to do all of the things I talked about in this article. Please pray about this and how God is speaking to you about being more active and getting that SPRING CLEANING done.....

Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

Elder Shannon Henderson

As always, thank you so much for your continued support with our sack lunch program. This is such a great ministry for Bethany, so go ahead and put it on your calendars every month. For everyone that might not know it is the last Saturday of each month beginning at 10:00am.

Another great ministry for us has been our *Adoption of Livingston Elementary School*. We have a few opportunities coming up that you can help with this program. Please contact the church office or Shannon Henderson to learn more that you can do to help.

- Treats 4 Teachers: As the school year is coming to an end, now more that ever teachers can use a positive pick me up. We will make cupcakes for each staff member of Livingston as a small token of appreciation for everything they do for the children and families in our community.
- Milestone Testing: This is a very important event in the students year. Let’s show our support and uplift the students of Livingston Elementary School during the Georgia Milestone Testing week! We will be collecting Dum Dum suckers and Smartie candy from now until May. We need at least 1200 pieces of candy to make sure we can reward each student with 2 pieces of candy for that week.

The Livingston students have been so helpful and supportive to Bethany during our Christmas Can Food Drive, let’s show the same for them!

Preparing for and Celebrating Holy Week



Beautification of the Building and Grounds for Easter. Join us on Saturday, April 13, from 9:00am-12:00pm as we clean-up the church grounds and prepare the building for the celebration of Easter!

April 14 is Palm Sunday! In this service we will remember the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt. We will be reminded of how the crowds cheered His entry as the children will begin the service by processing down the aisle waving palm branches and singing praises.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7:00PM we will be celebrating the service of Holy Communion.

Bethany's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 20, at 11:00am for our annual Easter egg hunt! We will have light refreshments at 11:00am and the egg hunt will begin at 11:30am. The hunt is open to children ranging in age from toddlers to those in the 5th grade.

Beginning on March 31, there will be a box for candy donations in the fellowship hall. Also, we want to collect small individual bags of cookie, goldfish, ect. for our younger children. If you would like to help provide any of the refreshments, please see Tina or Brandon Douglas or sign up in the fellowship hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

Easter Sunrise Service - April 21 at 7:00AM. Members of the youth group and parents will perform "The Stones of Passion," by Ron Motley at our Easter Sunrise Service. No doubt, this will be a moving time as together we watch the sun rise and remember the story of our risen Savior! We invite you to come and bring your favorite breakfast food to share in a time of fellowship after the service. The men of the church will cook breakfast meats and biscuits for everyone.

On Easter Sunday, April 21, we hope you will make plans to attend and bring your whole family and friends as well! We hope this service will truly help you to rejoice in the Lord always!

Also, on **Easter** we will receive **The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** through which Presbyterians witness to Christ's love by reaching out to those in need.

Vacation Bible School

Submitted by Tina Douglas

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. We are looking forward to another successful year here at Bethany, but we can only do it with your help. We are looking for volunteers. Please see Shannon Henderson or Tina Douglas if you are able to help in anyway.

Vacation Bible School will be June 10-14 from 9am-12pm. The closing program will be on Friday, June 14, with a meal at 6:00pm and program at 6:45pm.

Our kids will experience God's Heroes at our Vacation Bible School, Hero Central, Discover Your Strength in God! Your children will become Superheroes, at Hero Central as they explore where their strength comes from and learn that it all comes from God!!

"Youth Group News

Submitted by

Brandon Douglas

Springtime is here!! The Youth Group has been very slow these last few months. So, we are going to kick off this season with a Progressive Lunch on April 14 right after the Bell Choir Practice. We ask everyone to bring \$20 for this event. I know some of you are thinking "What is a Progressive Lunch?" Well, it is where we go around to different places to eat and only get one thing at a time. But the catch is that place and thing is drawn out of a "hat". We will not know what is where or what we will eat until it is drawn. The first place we go could be dessert and the last place could a drink. This is always a fun time of friendly interaction between the youth and the world around us. It has been a long time since the Bethany Youth Group has participated in anything like this and we are look forward to seeing how it goes.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on April 20, any middle school aged youth that would be able to help please see Tina Douglas for details. All other ages are invited to come at 11:00am to hunt eggs.

On April 27, we are asking any youth able to join us for the sack lunch prep/delivery. This is a great time for us to help since Bethany is always willing to support us through out the year.

We will have our regular youth meeting on April 28.

Please continue to pray for Bethany's youth and all that we do!!

We are

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