



SEPTEMBER 2019

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

2020

Stuart Clive
Brandon Douglas
Dennis Mills
Tracy Pirkle
Chris Mize

2021

Shannon Henderson
Bill Mote

Inside this issue:

Session Minutes	2-3
Calendar	4
Volunteers/Prayer List	5
Christian Ed	6
Can Drive/Youth News	7
Cemetery Work Day	8

“Call The Tow Truck”

Submitted by : Elder Stuart Clive

Recently our adult Sunday School Class completed a lesson focusing on the well known story of Sampson and Delilah. The lesson caption was entitled “ The humiliation of the proud.” As you know Sampson was dedicated at birth as a protector of the Israelite people against the Philistines and to bring glory to God. God gifted Sampson with unique superhuman strength and natural leadership skills as a fantastic warrior. Like many of us today, Sampson soon began to ignore God’s blessings and allow his pride and vanity to lead him down a path of careless decisions and behavior. God and everyone else began to take a back seat to Sampson’s selfish desires. Sampson’s downfall began to escalate when he married a Philistine woman named Delilah who betrayed him. Soon as a result of his bad decisions and straying from God’s commands, Sampson was taken captive by the Philistines, his eyes gouged out, his head shaven and his superhuman physical strength temporarily depleted. A once giant of a man was now reduced to sideshow humiliation by his enemies whom God had commissioned him to destroy. The lesson has redeeming values as Sampson finally returns to the Lord, as he prays a prayer of desperation:

“Lord God, Please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more.” (Judges 16:28)

Turns out God was listening and answered his prayer as Sampson was granted his former strength and was successful in carrying out the mission God had given him to protect Israel and destroy the Philistines.

Another real life story brings this scripture lesson into perspective for us today; A south Newton county man was out late on a dreadfully rainy evening. He ventured into a remote area whereby soon he lost his direction. By this time it was raining so hard he had difficulty seeing the road and where he was headed. Soon he runs off the road and slides his car into a rain drenched ditch. The man does what most of us would do, being alone and in a precarious situation, he gets out of the car, put some rocks under the tires and spins his wheels furiously trying to get out of the ditch. His tires bite deeper into the mud and the situation is worsened. What the man needs now is “Professional Help”. He needs a tow truck. But he sees another car approaching. He stops the approaching vehicle and persuades the driver to pull him out of the ditch. The other driver hooks a chain to his vehicle , but guess what happens?? The other vehicle proceeds to also get stuck in the mud. Now in the middle of nowhere, not only is the man stuck in the ditch,

(Continued on page 6)

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. Shannon Henderson had a devotional "God/Jesus uses ordinary people for his task" 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 guidelines for minimum pulpit supply service pay scale. Received a copy for the record

Rev. Myers passed along information on Presbytery meeting for August 17, 2019 - Stuart Clive elected to attend.

Clerk's Report

Paul Lewis

Starting membership - 79. Ending membership - 79

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

Reports from Ministry Teams

Mission and Outreach

Shannon Henderson

New website discussed at a cost of \$22 per month. Tabled until next meeting. A review of the present website needed

Can Drive "Can's for Carolyn" planning to asking outside donations/locations

Administration/Stewardship and Finance

Stuart Clive

Stuart provided an update on Mid-Year Financial Review (actual vs. plan), report received for the record

PCUSA gift was discussed, approved to send our next donation to the Newton County Food Bank directly. Presbytery failed to honor our request to send our 1st installment to the Food Bank.

Pastor Supply update received

Statement received from Presbytery of our giving.

Worship

Dennis Mills

World Communion planned for October 7, working on a Pastor

Pastor coverage for the next few months plan received, dates are set

Homecoming Plans being worked on for October 20, covered dish lunch after. Pastor still being worked on.

Building and Grounds**Lanier Mote**

Erosion of the last 2 rows by the fence in the cemetery was brought to the sessions attention by a family member of the Livingston/Guffins - issued was referred to the cemetery committee.

Work day date set for Saturday October 12 to prepare for Homecoming

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

Ice cream Social recap received, 40+ people attended

Pool party scheduled for September 1 for the Youth at the Douglas home

Fall Fundraiser being planned for a chili cook off, date to be determined

New Sunday school material has been ordered

Rally Day being planned for September 8

Information received for Lori Todd to teach the middle and high school classes

Member Care/Hospitality**Tracy Pirkle**

Next Family Night Supper scheduled for September 29

Rally Day Breakfast being planned for Sunday, September 8

Discussed Visitors Letters, Member Care will follow-up

Old/New Business

- Spirit front page article responsibility will be September - Stuart Clive
- Information received from the Elder Nominating Committee Installing of New Elders Chris Mize and Bill Mote will be September 15 by Rev. Myers
- Elected Elders for Presbytery Meetings, Tuesday November 12 - Chris Mize, Saturday February 8 - Brandon Douglas, Saturday May 9 - Brandon Douglas

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

The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:29 pm.

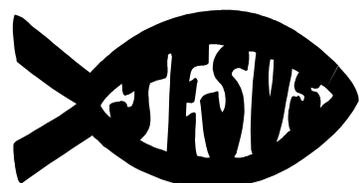
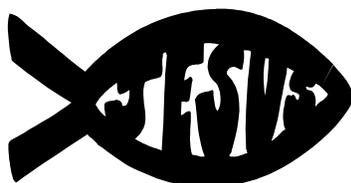
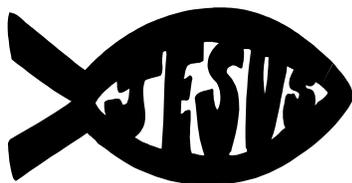
Next Session Meeting is September 17 at 7:00 pm. Al Myers is scheduled to be Moderator.

Devotional for September will be Dennis Mills

*Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
-1 Corinthians 10:31*

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am Youth Group Pool Party — right after church	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed	3 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	4 Choir Practice 6:30pm	5	6	7
8 Rally Day Sunday School—9:30am Morning Worship—11:00am	9	10 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	11 Choir Practice 6:30pm Dennis Mills	12	13	14
15 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Installation of Elders Youth Group — 2:30pm	16	17 Boy Scouts 7:00pm Session Meeting @ 7:00pm	18 Choir Practice 6:30pm	19 Lanier Mote	20	21
22 Sunday School — 9:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am —Newsletter Deadline Ansley Douglas	23	24 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	25 Fun Seekers — 11am Choir Practice 6:30pm	26	27 Janie Pennington	28 Cemetery Clean-up Day 8-12 Sack Lunch Prep/Delivery —10am
29 Men's Breakfast — 7:30am Sunday School — 9:30am Cafe Connections — 10:30am Morning Worship — 11:00am Youth Group — 2:30-4:00pm Family Night Supper 6:00pm	30					



Monthly Volunteers

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Liturgists	Dennis Mills	Stuart Clive	Tommy Pirkle	Bill Foster	Chris Mize
Greeters	Tina Douglas Debbie Mote				
Ushers	Shannon Henderson Dennis Mills Debbie Mote Joe Pierce				
Open Bldg.	Buddy & Rae Cook	Bill Mote	Lawson Hooper	Brandon & Tina Douglas	Men of the Church
Close Bldg.	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). Thank you!

Emmie Adamson (Peters)
 Becky Alexander (Boyce)
 Mary Alice (O'Donnell)
 Ann (Boyce)
 Jim Asher (R. Cook)
 Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)
 Becky & John (Boyce)
 Benjamin (Boyce)
 Billy Jo (Boyce)
 Bob Boyce (Boyce)
 Charlotte Bratton (Boyce)
 Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
 Evelyn Capes
 Linda & Tommy Davis (Boyce)
 Kylie Douglas
 Jeff Flowers (Boyce)
 Bill Foster
 Zach Foster
 Henry Gaddis (W. Mize)
 Grandchildren (Boyce)
 Joey Hancock (L. Mote)
 Carol Hageman (O'Donnell)
 Hazel (Peters)
 Terry King
 Kim (Boyce)
 Helen Kohler (Boyce)

Mike Lipscomb (Peters)
 Gayle Marchman (McCullough)
 Maria (Boyce)
 Grady & Judy McMahan (Boyce)
 Irene Mize (W. Mize)
 Larry Mize (O'Donnell)
 Jane & Bill Moore (Boyce)
 Jimmy Noles (B. Douglas)
 Marcus Phillips (O'Donnell)
 Terry Pratt (Parney)
 Mike & Barbara Rathbun (O'Donnell)
 Richard Robinson (D. Mote)
 Schuitema Family (Parney)
 Gary Smith (Cook)
 Ron & Charlotte Sweeten
 Tammy (Peters)
 Matt Tan (Parney)
 Thomas (Boyce)
 Carolyn Vess (Boyce)
 Mitchell Wheeler (Mize)
 Lamar Wilkes (B. Hunt)
 Ava Young (Pirkle)
 Our Church Family
 Our College Students
 Our Military Men and Women
 Our Session



but he has influenced another to be in the same situation. If only he had called the tow truck when the difficulty first began. Sound familiar?? Ever seen trouble on the horizon and you wait until your life is in the ditch before you finally call on the "tow truck".

All of us are prone to let our selfish pride get us in trouble. God hates the haughty and proud. We then convince ourselves that we can solve our own problems. Why not talk to the "Professional" daily and not allow our lives to ever get "in the ditch"? This is called wisdom, and history tells us that if we ask God for help and put our faith in him and not earthly desires, He will always be at our side. **Call the Tow Truck !!!**

On Sunday, September 15, Bill Mote and Chris Mize will be installed into the New Elder Class. Please be sure to keep them, as well as everyone else currently on Bethany's Session, in your prayers!

Here is how each of the Elders will focus their ministries for the following year:

Administration - Stuart Clive
Buildings and Grounds - Bill Mote
Clerk - Chris Mize
Children & Youth / Christian Discipleship - Brandon Douglas
Member Care / Hospitality - Tracy Pirkle
Mission & Outreach - Shannon Henderson
Worship - Dennis Mills

Also, thank you to Paul Lewis and Lanier Mote, who roll-off the Session after the installation of the new class. Your time, energy, creativity, and prayers have served Bethany very well!

Christian Education Team

Elder Brandon Douglas

It's that time of year again to **kick off** the new Sunday School year. We will be having a Rally Day on September 8 starting with breakfast at 9:30am. We will be thanking our teachers of the past year and welcoming the new teachers of the new year. I would like to invite and encourage all Church members to attend and participate in this year's Rally Day. This year we are excited to be starting up a new Sunday school class for the middle and high school age youth. Lori Todd has showed interest in teaching this class. We have our normal group of people that come to Sunday school but I would like to encourage more people to come and try Sunday school and even bring someone with you.

Also, I would like to get a list of people that would be willing to share in the job of Sunday School superintendent. If you would be interested in helping in that area please contact Tina in the church office or contact me directly.

Thank you Bethany Congregation for you participation in the 2018 Baby Bottle Campaign. We raised \$452.65 this year. Through the donation of our church the Refuge Pregnancy Center in Rockdale County will be able to serve 18 families either through Pregnancy test, Client Advocacy, Ultrasounds, Child care items, or GED classes.

Your small change had a **BIG IMPACT** to a beating heart!



Preaching Schedule

- September 1 — Elder Brandon Douglas
- September 8 — Elder Brandon Douglas
- September 15 — Rev. Dr. Al Myers
- September 22 — Elder Jane Hubbard
- September 29 — Elder Brandon Douglas

We have a Family Night Supper scheduled for September 29, at 6:00pm. Don't be shy, bring your friends, a dish to share and be ready to enjoy a variety of delicious home cooked food. Following the meal, we will have the pleasure to have Lanier Mote and friends join us for live-music. It's sure to be an evening you won't want to miss!

Cans for Carolyn: In honor of Carolyn Sullivan Bethany will sponsor a can food drive this month. Carolyn loved this Mission and Outreach program and loved helping others. Our goal is 710 cans in honor of Carolyn's birthday. Please help us reach this goal and continue helping others in our community. There is a drop off In the Assembly Room.



"Youth Group News

Submitted by
Brandon Douglas

So, we started youth group back up and it was a success. We are starting a lesson on "what it means to be a Christian." We had some very good discussion on it as well. We have the pool party coming up on September first which is always a good time. We will also start planning a Chili cook off, as one of our fundraisers, the date is still to be determined and more details to come. Starting thinking about your favorite chili recipe to enter in the cook

Upcoming Fall Plans

- September 1 — Pool until 2:30
- September 15
- September 29
- October 13
- October 27 — Halloween Party

off. We would like to invite volunteers this year to come and talk to the kids about, anything that may be on your hearts, that could benefit the youth. This could be a story or a testimony that you think the youth could learn from. I know that the kids would enjoy hearing from the members of the congregation. If you feel led to do this please see Tina or myself. Again, thank you for all of your support of our youth.

Save the Date: September 28 **Cemetery Work Day**

Bethany Cemetery is the burial place for the remains of over 350 church members, including 27 veterans. At least 94 were buried in the 1800's. The earliest internments date back before the founding of the church.

The Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops that meet at Bethany are going to join us for a cemetery workday on Saturday September 28. A few markers need to be reset and there will be a general cleaning and maintenance of the cemetery.

If you can't join us for the workday, please consider donating to the Bethany Cemetery Fund, which pays for maintenance of the cemetery and upkeep of the markers.

Tools that you can bring if you have them: shovels, hoes, rakes, Pry-bars, wheel-barrows, pole saws, limb pinchers, weed eaters, hedge trimmers, and any other tools that you think we may need.

Lunch will be served afterwards to all participants. Volunteers are encouraged to provide desserts. If you have any questions please see or contact Lawson Hooper at 770-354-0406.

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