



MARCH 2020

Bethany Spirit

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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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

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"The Lenten Season"

Submitted by :Brandon Douglas

The season of lent is here. I am sure we all know what that means, right? You see lent means "Spring Season" and it is defined as the 40 day period before Easter. Now most Christians don't eat certain foods or do certain fun activities during this time. I always wonder why do we give up such petty stuff such as cokes, or fries, or pizza. Maybe even giving up going out with friends or going fishing. But what does that really do for us? I mean we can do this stuff anytime, right? Let's think about this a different way.

The season of Lent is 40 days. It starts on Ash Wednesday, it is one of the oldest observed things on the Christian Calendar. Like all Christian holidays, it has changed over the years. Ash Wednesday is for self-examination and penitence (feeling sorrow for our sins). We do this by denying ourselves so that we can be ready for Easter. So I ask myself why we give up food and fun stuff. Honestly most of us could use giving up some food. I know that I could. But should we give up stuff so small. I feel like we should be giving up lying, cheating, watching pornographic videos, or drugs. May be we stop being so negative towards stuff in our life's. What if we give up all the stuff that God calls us to give up? To me this is the kind of stuff that should be given up, all this stuff causes so much problems in the world and in our small community.

We need to take a look at ourselves during this time of lent. We can do this as church as well. How do we do this as a church you ask. I think we can, as a church, maybe not say that's how it's always been done. I think that we can work together to move forward as a church but we are going to have to make some changes. By changes I mean we have to get more involved in the goings on of the church. When we have a family night supper we ALL need to show up. When we have extra services like sunrise service, Christmas eve service, and Thanksgiving eve service. When we have the youth fundraisers we need to show up. The only way we are going to make changes in our church is to give up the past and move forward. And I think the Lenten Season is a great time to do this. When people see the parking lot full and not just on Sundays they will start thinking, Man they have something special, maybe I should try them out.

Let's make this the best Lenten season here a Bethany!!!!

Clerk of Session Chris Mize

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Moderator, Rev. Al Myers. A quorum was declared present. The agenda was distributed and approved. The devotional was placed on the docket at the end of the meeting.

Financial Lisa Parris

The Financial Reports were distributed, reviewed and approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 7, 2020, meeting were approved with no corrections.

Prayer Cards/Concerns

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

Pastor Comments and Concerns

Rev. Myers suggested that an Elder Nominating Committee be put in place at in March during a Congregational Meeting. This Committee needs to be in place in case an emergency arises for an Elder position.

Rev. Myers reported on the Presbytery Meeting held on February 8, 2020. The focus for this meeting was "Ministering to the Needy"

Elders will be elected to attend the May, August and November Meetings at the next session meeting.

Clerk's Report Chris Mize

Beginning Membership - 80

Ending Membership – 80

Correspondence was passed around for all to see.

Reports from Ministry Teams

Mission and Outreach Shannon Henderson

- The Hunger walk is scheduled for March 15. There will be a list made of all who wish to participate. This is a project the Bethany Youth have supported in the past.
- A Letter from the Boy's and Girl's Club was discussed and it was decided to send them a donation of \$200.00 out of the Mission and Outreach Budget.

Administration/Stewardship and Finance Stuart Clive

- The amended Budget for 2020 was approved.
- Newton County has the application for the signage for Bethany to be placed at each end of Bethany Road. Permission from one property owner has been granted. The property owner from the other end of Bethany Road is still to be determined to gain permission for placing the sign there. It was reported that the signs are already in possession of the Church so new ones will not be purchased.

Worship

Dennis Mills

- Bethany has been invited to Conyers Presbyterian Church to attend Ash Wednesday Services on February 26.
- Baggies for Pocket Change will be distributed and will be collected from the Congregation on Palm Sunday. Donations will be given to The Boy's and Girl's Club.
- Rev. Al Myers will conduct the Maundy Thursday service on April 9 and Communion will be received. This service will be at 7:00pm.
- The Sunrise Service will be handled by the Youth this year.
- Brandon Douglas will be conducting our Easter Service. We will be celebrating "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering.

Officiating for March will be as follows:

March 1 – Rev. Al Myers,

March 8 – Elder Jane Hubbard

March 15 – Elder Brandon Douglas

March 22 – Elder Brandon Douglas

March 29 – Elder Brandon Douglas

- A suggestion of pre-filled Communion cups was discussed and tabled until further information can be obtained.

Building and Grounds

Bill Mote

- We will be having a Work Day in preparation for Easter on March 28 from 8:00am til 12:00 pm.

Christian Education/Children and Youth

Brandon Douglas

- A new Bible Study for the Youth will begin on February 23. This study will focus on the Books of James and Proverbs.

The youth will have a Pancake Dinner on February 25 at 6:00pm. The Boy Scouts will be participating in the preparation. This will be a fundraiser for the Youth Camps.

- The Youth will host another Fundraiser in May. This will be a Spaghetti Dinner which is always a great time.

Member Care/Hospitality

Tracy Pirkle

- There will be Bridal Shower for Haley Hall on February 15, in the Fellowship Hall.
- We will have Family Night Supper on March 29, with entertainment planned.

Old/New Business

The "Sailboat" Devotional Books were passed out and the Session will read two chapters for discussion and devotion for the next Session Meeting.

The next Session Meeting will be March 10, 2020.

Devotional

Tracy Pirkle

Tracy closed the meeting with a devotional from Lisa Terkerust with passages from Proverbs 31 Ministries. She read from Joshua 5:13 on "The Best Battle Plan". We learn in the midst of Battles that God is with us. We need to worry less and pray more. Tracy closed us in Prayer.

Monthly Volunteers

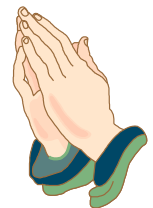
	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Litur-gists	Brandon Douglas	Brandon Douglas	Ansley Douglas	Kendyl Nimmons	Dennis Mills
Greeters	Buddy Cook Billy Hunt	Buddy Cook Billy Hunt	Buddy Cook Billy Hunt	Buddy Cook Billy Hunt	Buddy Cook Billy Hunt
Ushers	Joanne Hooper Lawson Hooper Chris Mize Wayne 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
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)
Ann (Boyce)
Evie Argauer
Joyce & Sam Ball (Boyce)
Becky & John (Boyce)
The Family of Jean Bell (Boyce)
Benjamin (Boyce)
Billy & Katie (Boyce)
Cheryl Burke - Forman University (Pakistan)
Evelyn Capes
Henry Cofer
The Family Tommy Davis (Boyce)
Darlene (Boyce)
Barbie Dorrow (L. Mote)
Nancy Dryzmala (O'Donnell)
Terrie Greer (L. Todd)
Jim Fan (Parney)
Bill Foster
Henry Gaddis (W. Mize)
Grandchildren (Boyce)
Debbie Gober (Douglas)
Joey Hancock (L. Mote)
Carol Hageman (O'Donnell)
Kelly Harper (T. Douglas)
Hazel (Peters)
Burt Jones (McCullough)
Kim (Boyce)

Helen Kohler (Boyce)
Mike Lipscomb (Peters)
Chris Lowstuter (L. Pierce)
Gayle Marchman (McCullough)
Margaret (Boyce)
Mazie (Boyce)
Grady & Judy McMahan (Boyce)
Keith McTaggart (Boyce)
Irene Mize (W. Mize)
Jane & Bill (Boyce)
Jimmy Noles (Douglas)
Terry Pratt (Parney)
Sandi (Boyce)
Schuitema Family (Parney)
Ron & Charlotte Sweeten
Thomas (Boyce)
Carolyn Vess (Boyce)
Vivian (Boyce)
Mitchell Wheeler (Mize)
Ava Young (Pirkle)
Our Church Family
Our Military Men and Women
Our Session



Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Submitted by Tina 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– 200 lunches the last Saturday of each month to the needy in Porterdale and surrounding areas. Has anyone been thinking how can I help out at Bethany? The sack lunch program is the area that needs your help, we welcome everyone!!

“Always remember many hands make light work!!!”

Christian Education Ministry Team

Elder Brandon Douglas

Springtime is just around the corner and we are already gearing up for another exciting Sunday School quarter beginning on March 1. In our Adults class, we are planning to continue with the Life-way study from “The Gospel Project” This Spring, the Gospel Project invites you to celebrate the personal hope of the gospel as we begin a chronological study of the New Testament. The middle and high school class will continue their study on the Book of James taught by Lori Todd. The Elementary class will be taught by Cathy Cowan, she always has exciting studies. Nancy Boyce has offered to continue with a Preschool class if anyone is interested. As always, please come out and join us on Sunday morning at 9:30am for our Sunday School classes and fellowship! You will be glad you did.

Worship Ministry Team

Elder Dennis Mills

Springtime is almost here! Easter lilies will soon be ordered as Easter is just over a month away (April 12th). We are currently in the season of Lent, which is defined as the 40 day (46 days including Sundays) period of intentionally dwelling on the life, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus. We will be conducting our Baggies for Pocket Change over the next several weeks and will be taking them up on Palm Sunday (April 5th). All of the Baggies for Pocket Change donations will be given to the Boy’s and Girl’s Club. Dr. Al Meyers will be providing our Maundy Thursday service on April 9th where communion will be received. We are excited to have Brandon Douglas conducting our Easter Service this year where we will be celebrating our “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering. I know we will all be looking forward to his message for 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!

**“Youth
Group News**

Submitted by
Brandon
Douglas

We are getting into this year with a bang. We have had our first two youth bible studies so far. We are diving into Proverbs and James. This bible study seems to be good for the day to day stuff our kids face in the world today. Our kids face so much more than even I did when I was growing up. I never really had to deal with drugs while in middle school or teen pregnancy in middle school and this bible study is helpful for those real life kinds of situations.

On another note we had our 3rd annual pancake dinner/fundraiser with the youth and Boy Scouts. It was a success, not only did the boy scouts show up but so did a lot of our church members, we raised \$433. A lot of pancakes were cooked and everyone hopefully left full. A big thanks goes to all the Boy Scouts that came out to support the Youth Group again this year. We look forward to next year!!

I want to encourage all the youth to help with the Work Day on March 28!!

Administration Ministry Team

Elder Stuart Clive

“Sailboat Church”

*“It is a warm summer day at the lake. The water looks cool and inviting. You push your boat off the shore, pick up the oars , and begin to row over the other side. After a while what seemed like a warm day begins to feel hot . Pulling at the oars , your arms begin to tire, and the other shore looks farther away than when you started. You stop for a moment to rest, and as you wipe the sweat off your face, you see a **Sailboat** on the lake, not too far off. It is skimming across the water, almost dancing with the wind! The Sailboat is coming in your direction. You admire its graceful movement. As you pick up the oars again, you wonder what it would be like to sail.”*

Is Bethany a Sailboat or a Row boat church?? That is the question that church leadership will begin to explore as our Session begins a new book study entitled Sailboat Church starting next month. The book study is an interesting resource designed at assisting church’s to rethink it’s mission and practices in today’s ever-changing world. This study will become part of each session’s devotional program at each session meeting for the next five to six months of this year.

Rowboat churches depend largely on human effort. When church budgets shrink and membership declines, rowboat churches frantically row harder against a current, often frustrated and disappointed at their efforts. Sailboat churches , on the other hand , take up the oars, hoist sails, and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them. This study encourages leadership to shift concern from the many daily, practical concerns of their local church to fresh ideas that can be found using the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The study includes forty days of sailing prayers, quotes from Scripture, brief reflection questions, and extensive bibliography that is arranged by theme. Perfect for groups to read and study together, this study is designed to help leaders and congregations reframe their church’s mission and practice with the Holy Spirit as their guide.

Please be in prayer to our session as we embark on this new study. Feedback from the study and ideas and practices that are implemented as a result of the study will be provided to the congregation on an on going basis over the next six months.

Attention all Bell Ringers

Bell Choir Practices :

March 15

March 22

March 29

April 5

We will perform on Easter Sunday, April 12. If you have any other questions contact Betty O’Donnell at (716-867-8470)

SAVE THE DATES

March 6 — World Day of Prayer

March 21 — 100th Birthday Celebration for Kathleen Hooper; Bethany’s Oldest Member

March 28 — Church-wide Spring Work Day

We will be cleaning up the church grounds and any other SPRING cleaning that need to be done. In order to get ready for Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to help from 9am - Noon.

March 29 — Family Night Supper @ 6:00

Everyone is invited to come fellowship with your Bethany Family. Remember to bring your friends and a covered dish to share. This is always a fun time. We have a special night planned.

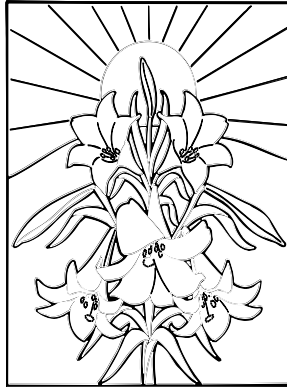
EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies at Bethany are such a great tradition. We are offered the opportunity to beautify our church at Easter by placing a gorgeous Easter lily in honor or in memory of someone. This year we will be able to purchase our lilies for a cost of \$8.00 each. These lilies are not only beautiful to see, the fragrance is wonderful and the meaning behind them is a reminder of those special to us.

Make your check payable to Bethany Presbyterian and designate it for "Easter Lily" in the memo.

The deadline to order is March 22.

You may take them home after the 11:00am Easter worship service.



Keep Up With The Times
Reset Your Clocks
Sunday, March 8,
2:00AM
Move your clock forward
one hour!

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