

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
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July/August 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Some of you may have noticed that I have been away most of June. The conference schedules I felt I needed to attend just happened to be practically back to back weeks in June. I look forward to sharing the information and suggestions with Session as well as utilizing the spiritual growth and knowledge in upcoming sermons, worships and Bible studies to pass on to you all.

My first conference was conducted by John Bell, member of the Iona Community in Scotland, prolific writer and musician for Wild Goose Publications, and masterful theologian combining the wisdom of the ancients with the modern movement of the Holy Spirit. This conference was about the anatomy of change within the church all over the world, and the struggles within the heart, mind and gut when it comes to change within the church.

My second conference was conducted by John Dominic Crossen. He is a leader of a movement called the Jesus Seminar which seeks to understand the historical Jesus. His work is considered fascinating, but a bit controversial; so, I go into it with a critical eye/ear.

I look forward to being reunited with you all in July! I invite you to ask questions or ask for materials if these conferences interest you.

I pray for you all daily while I am travelling. Much love!

Pastor Emily

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July 2017 Scripture Focus

Ordinary Time

I am the True Vine

John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

1. We have all been "pruned" in our lives. What brought about your pruning? What kind of fruit grew from this painful time?
2. How can we abide more deeply in Jesus who is the True Vine?

August 2017 Scripture Focus

Ordinary Time

I am the Gate

John 10:7-10 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

1. Jesus is the gate we enter to find pasture and safety. Imagine this pasture. What does it look like? Feel like?
2. Jesus, the Gate, has given us entry into God's covenant community. How do we listen to Jesus and not to the voices of thieves and bandits?

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

•Clerk's Corner•Property •Worship •Fellowship •Christian Ed • Mission and Outreach•Media

Clerk's Corner

Session did not have a regular meeting in June; however, there was a session retreat on June 10th at Central Presbyterian Church. A check for \$100 was sent to Central for the use of their church. Many ideas came from the retreat. The year 2020 will soon be here and session would like to have goals set that are realistically achievable.

The Baptisms for Rengio and Claire Reynolds were entered into the church registry.

Emily has been on study leave June 7 – 14th and again on June 21st- 28th.

The Pentecost offering collection was \$85.

Please take note of the July scripture focus found elsewhere in the newsletter. Often to let new growth happen we need to prune the old away. New growth, change, is inevitable and can be a good thing even if it is difficult to accept. God brings new growth into our lives every year. How blessed we all are by God, our master gardener.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Mission

Thank you to all who choose to support our future leaders through the Pentecost Offering. There was no formal session in June but instead we had a retreat to discover who we (the Bath Church Family) are and what our future looks like. We discussed where we want to focus our energy and prayers on for 2017 and forward.

Our next Mission will be during the month of July for the Dayton Humane Society and Ella will have more information on this shortly. Start looking for sales on paper towels!

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder

Human Trafficking

Boys are victims of sex trafficking also. Victims are both international and domestic, from all socioeconomic levels, from all ethnicities, all races and all faith backgrounds. The value is not on human beings' lives, but on their bodies, in a market that is anything but free and anything but fair. The Hotline number is 1-888 373-7888. Pray God continues to work His justice in this broken world.



WOMEN'S GATHERING NEWS

Monday July 10th - "Christmas in July" from 10am-3pm

We have concluded the Bible study "Who Is Jesus?" and will begin a new study in September. Our activities this month will be a potluck lunch and making Christmas crafts for our fall bazaar. If you can only stay an hour, it's fine! Come whenever you can. Join the FUN!

Delivery to the Samaritan Homeless Clinic

37 hygiene kits, 77 new items (including large size toiletries) plus new and used clothing were donated. The directors expressed their appreciation for "showing love" to their patients.

Deliveries to Clothes That Work and Goodwill

Clothes were given, some being new items.

August WG Activities

Our plans include two craft workshops this month. These dates have not been decided at this time.

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**From the Mouse Archives:
July 2012**

Dear Members and Friends of Bath Church,

Someone recently said, "Our nation is more divided now than it has been since the "Civil War." I wish it were not so. I hope that as we celebrate the birth of our nation, we will all stop for a while and consider the source of our nation's greatness.

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was

not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Friends, let us work at lifting up those things in our nation that are truly good and hopefully will bring us together again. Things like kindness, caring and love...continued freedom of religion...equal opportunity for growth and success for everyone, regardless of race, gender, color, religion, national origin or socio-economic status. Let us as a nation seek to provide an outstanding education for all of our children and young adults. Let us work toward the goal that all of our citizens will have enough to eat, decent housing, and quality medical care. Let us do everything in our power to eliminate poverty in our land. let us continue to promote democracy, freedom and peace throughout the world. And as Christians, let us live according to the teachings of our Lord, who commanded that we love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Well, these are just a few of my thoughts that I feel will help us to continue to be the "Good Nation" described by Tocqueville. Now, what are some of yours?

Have a wonderful celebration on the 4th of July!

Peace and Grace,
Tom Martin, Pastor

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sharon C.
2 Session Prayer Time 10:00 am Coffee and Donuts	3 Janet M.	4 Paul D.	5	6 Emily on vacay	7 Emily on vacay	8 Emily on vacay
9 Emily on vacay Gidget Collins pulpit supply	10 Emily on vacay W.G. 10 – 3:00 pm Cathy and Dan Y.	11 Emily on vacay	12 Emily on vacay	13 Emily on vacay	14 Emily on vacay	15 Emily on vacay
16 Holy Communion Session Meeting	17	18	19 Pam and Larry B.	20	21	22
23 Third-Thirty Meeting	24 Jo W.	25	26	27 Worship meeting 6:30 pm	28 Gidget and Bob C.	29
30	31	Notes:				

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Session Prayer Time Coffee and Donuts Abbie and Jack K.	7 W.G. 10 – 3:00 pm	8	9	10 Cliff H.	11	12 Deb H.
13	14	15	16	17 Val Q.	18 Hazel and Chris P. Claire H.	19
20 Holy Communion Session Meeting	21	22	23 Ethan J.	24	25	26 Faith PC using Bath Church for retreat 9 – 3:00 pm
27	28	29	30	31 Maudie L.	Notes:	