

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
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February 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings and Peace to you, Bath Church Family!

Have you noticed the small change in the Sanctuary? The baptismal font has moved from the front of the Sanctuary to the entrance, and now has water in it. This is to invite all who enter and exit the Worship space to touch the waters and be mindful of the baptism waters that unite us with Christ. Paired with the communion table, these sacramental Worship aids can now bookend our space as well as our intentions in worship. It's just an experiment for now, so let the Worship committee or Pastor Emily know your experiences and feedback!

Also, we are trying to lift our prayers and voices through music more in worship. You will notice the choir, Bath Singers and other musicians participating more frequently on Sunday mornings.

The congregational vote as to whether to hold the Winter Bible/book study on Sundays or Thursdays was a tie! So, first we will hold them after church on Sundays. Then in the Spring we will have another series and try that in the evening hours to catch the people who could not make this time slot. But for now...

Don't Miss It!

A huge thanks to members who attended and participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting January 22nd. In only 10 minutes, we

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got a week's worth of business accomplished! Special thanks to Verna Drake (chair), Larry Byrd, Janet Miller, Barbara Williams and Brian Swingley for agreeing to serve on the Nominating committee this year.

You may have noticed a call to action in the sermons lately. The two goals of Worship are to glorify God and then be prepared and inspired to go out and change the world in the name of Jesus Christ! So many of you are doing such wonderful things in your community and in the world! If you would like to talk one-on-one about how to increase your witness in the world, please come talk with me or join us for our upcoming Book Study.

Christ's Peace!
Pastor Emily



6 Week Bible/Book Study
Sundays 12:15-1:45pm (BYO lunch)

Feb 5, Feb 26,
Mar 12, Mar 26,
Apr 9 and Apr 30

(meet in the Parlor)

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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

Clerk's Corner

Thank you to Tom Oxley for printing our annual report booklets. His help in accomplishing this task is appreciated. The annual reports from the elders who chair the committees address resources and activities, things that touch this congregation – the performance, norms, and policies. Session welcomes conversations by everyone about the reports.

Conversation is the currency of change and change is happening constantly, whether or not we are onboard with it, and whether or not we are even aware of it. We invite you to discuss this in positive ways, to talk about the future, think about the future, pray about the future, and to thank God for determining the path we will follow into the future.

Some of you may have noticed that each year the annual report packets contain more and more policies, and here we touch upon change once again. Some new policies are established to make it easier for session to oversee the church more effectively; a small number are for various other purposes. Most are mandated by PC (USA). We should never feel uncomfortable, controlled, or coerced by new policies, because for the most part they are intended to protect the church. The church being you, me, and each person in every Presbyterian church across our nation. As elders we all promised to be governed by our church's polity. This is part of that polity that we are promising to uphold as Presbyterians.

It takes a team effort for any organization or church to run smoothly; from the pastor, to the session, to the committees, to each member

and friend in the congregation. We serve a mighty God, and we all try our best to present a mighty effort. Only God is perfect. The rest of us sincerely strive to do our very best.

Congratulations to Ethan Johns on his ordination January 8th, and Verna Drake who was installed. During ordination and installation services when we have the laying on of hands, it is an action that reminds us of the history of the church; Bath Church as well as the church universal. Elders lay hands on those being ordained/ installed, just as hands were laid on them for their ordination/installation. It is a way we know the saints of the past continue on with each elder. Many hands were laid on Pastor Emily at her ordination, and those hands go back to other churches around our country, and the many who laid hands on them for ordinations and installations. Then as Emily lays hands on elders at Bath Church this continuation of the saints is yet again passed down.

Emily has planned vacation and study leave time for 2017. Vacation dates are July 7 – 14, September 1 – 5, and December 25 – January 1st. Study Leave is scheduled for June 18 – 25 as she attends a worship conference in North Carolina.

Emily took Communion to Claire Harsh at Daysprings on January 5th with Elder Gidget Collins. We all continue to hold Claire, Jo West, as well as Audrey Bates in our daily prayers.

Verna will be using the church for Kairos meetings on some Saturdays for the next couple of months. This is an important mission that Bath supports. Please pray for Verna and all

those that will be touched by the Holy Spirit during the Kairos planning time.

New ruling elder Ethan Johns will be the commissioner to the February Presbytery meeting to be held at Westminster downtown. The G.A. co-moderator will preach at the meeting. Among the business elders will be voting on the Amendments from General Assembly.

Bank balances as of January 2017 are: Checking \$27,077.28; CDs \$70,000.00; Money Market \$15,331.45; Vanguard Wellington \$88,555.64; Total: \$200,964.37. The savings account was closed because it was never used. The money was placed into the money market account. Ethan will look into the cost of having a church audit done by a professional accountant with no ties to the church. Jeff has names from the Presbytery that he will give to Ethan. It has been longer than 16 years since an outside audit was accomplished. Although no reason exists to think there are problems, session believes it is in the interest of the church to have this done. If an outside audit is not done this year Chris Pomfret will audit the W.G. account, and J.O. Miller will audit the church account.

The 2017 nominating committee has been formed. Session elected two elders to be on the nominating committee. Verna Drake will serve as chair and Larry Byrd will serve on the committee. Three other members of the committee were elected at the annual congregational meeting January 22nd. Those members are Janet Miller, Brian Swingley, and Barbara Williams.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Worship

The Worship committee goes into 2017 with Jeff Whitaker as the Chair Person. The committee consist of Pam, Donna, Barbara, and the Musicians JO/ Brad/Monica.

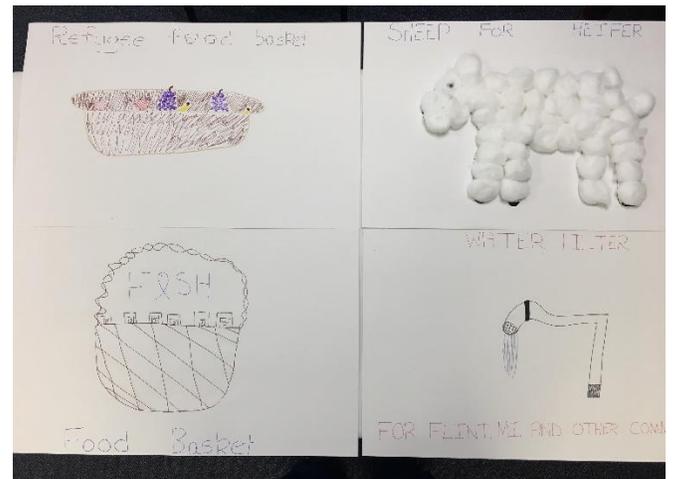
At our recent meeting, we are planning Worship and music several weeks and months in advance. Our musicians are set for the coming Sundays and working with the Choir on special music in worship.

Thanks goes out to our committee for their commitment.

Be sure to visit our website for the upcoming worship info! See you on Sunday's!

Peace,
Jeff Whitaker

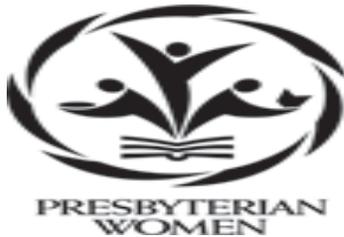
Mission



Thank you, Bath family! You made a difference in the lives of many during the Christmas season. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, all the gifts sent to our Adopt-A-Family, and the Mission support during our Alternative Christmas Bazaar we have touched lives all around the world. A special thank you to Ella for her drawings for the different areas we supported which included: Our local Fish pantry

which received \$130, Heifer International received \$190 for shares in a lamb, and Presbyterian Mission received \$120 for refugee food baskets & \$130 for water filters. Our next mission will be the Souper bowl. We will be collecting soup during January & February for F.I.S.H. The mission committee will be hosting February's coffee & donuts.

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder



WOMEN'S GATHERING NEWS

Wednesday January 18th Delivery to the Samaritan Homeless Clinic

We donated 2 blankets and 37 scarves (33 made by our ladies).

Wednesday January 18th Delivery to Clothes That Work

Clothing was delivered.

Monday February 6th Meeting from 10am-3pm

We will study Lesson #5 of our Bible study from the *Horizons* magazine entitled "Who Is Jesus?" We will learn how the four Gospel writers portray Jesus, plus how other faith traditions view Jesus. We also will enjoy a potluck lunch, decorate for the Valentine party and make crafts.

Sunday February 12th Ladies Valentine Party after Worship

We will have a potluck lunch, reveal 2016 Secret Sisters in Christ and draw names for the 2017 Secret Sisters in Christ. ALL ladies are invited!

Human Trafficking

The laws are changing. Ohio is realizing that 92% of the time that the prostitute is the victim and falls into the definition of human trafficking. They are now going after those people that are profiting from this vile crime and helping the victim to get help. They are spending money to set up programs to find & help those victims who are usually runaways -- those young people who are hurting, lonely, & abused

The faces of human trafficking



are more common than you'd think.

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir 7pm	2	3	4 Vema using church for Kairos
5 Session Prayer Time 10:30 Coffee and donuts Souper Bowl of Caring Book Study 12:15 – 1:45 pm	6 W.G. 10 – 3:00 pm Pam Byrd using F.H. 6 – 9:30	7	8 Choir 7pm	9	10	11 Presbytery Meeting at Westminster Dayton. 9:00 am GA Co-Moderator Jan Edmiston preaching
12 Ladies' Valentine Party after worship	13	14	15 Choir 7pm	16 Worship Committee meeting	17 Roberta P.	18 Vema using church for Kairos 7:00 am – 5:30 pm Duane F.
19 Session Meeting	20 Presidents' Day	21 Caelan F.	22 Choir 7pm Mouse Input due by noon	23	24 Monica J.	25 Vema using church for Kairos 7:00 am – 5:30 pm
26 Transfiguration of the Lord Holy Communion Book Study 12:15 – 1:45 pm	27	28	Notes:			