

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
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February 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings to you, Bath Church Family, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This month begins the Lenten Season for us. It often sneaks up following Advent and Christmas. Now, we again are in a period of waiting and watching and preparing. Preparing for those traumatic days of Holy Week with Christ's betrayal and crucifixion. Then, drastically, we are swept away with the joy and praise of Easter morning! It can be a season of faithful whiplash! It's a good time to ask questions, to put it all out there, to bring to God anything that has become a stumbling block to our faith. Bring the "whys" that are weighing on our hearts to our lips and lift them in prayer.

I have been asked several "whys" lately by many of you, and I figure if some are asking, there are many others who are not asking but would like to know.

#1- Why do we do home communion? - Communion is a sacrament of the church, and for we Presbyterians that means it is a time to celebrate our Christian community as well as be united with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. For those in our community who are not able to fellowship with us in communion during Sunday morning worship, it is still important to keep connected to the church body. So, I and an Elder bring the actual Elements that were used during Sunday worship as well as the bulletin and essentially reenact the service of Holy Communion in a person's home. We are a connectional denomination, Home Communion

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is all about fostering those connections and ensuring that we all stay united in the Spirit even if illness, injury, weather, etc keeps us from connecting on a Sunday morning. Home Communion, is NOT last rites. Home Communion is NOT charity. Home Communion is NOT a bother. It is an extension of the joyful feast of the people of God...to go!

#2- Why did Session decide to re-key the church? Safety. As Session wrestled with the reality of church shootings nation-wide, items going missing from the church, wi-fi usage going over our monthly budget, unknown persons entering the church upstairs while an event was going on downstairs and the inability to give our insurance a list of who had keys to the church because we had no idea. This was not an easy decision. We did not want weapons on the premises, we did not want to keep guards at the door during church events guarding who comes and goes. This is God's church and should be welcoming and available to all, yet we need to ensure we are not being naive in our safety due to the incidents listed above.

So, the cheapest and simplest solution was to re-key the church and distribute keys to those on an approved list. This ensures nobody is in the building alone, since the pastor or member of Session will be there to open and close the building. There have been keys issued to non-Session members because these persons minister within the church in a way that requires

frequent church access. If you feel your ministry has been over-looked, please bring this to our attention. I have heard that feelings are hurt by this decision. Please know it's not personal and nobody in particular was targeted. I hope this adds a little clarity to the reason for the decision, if not, come talk to me and the Session. We're not always right. Bath is a small church and only works because everyone pitches in and are

partners in Christ's service. Please know that everyone's contribution to this community is valued and appreciated greatly!

Stay warm! Join us for our Ash Wednesday service, February 14th @ 7pm.

Peace be with you all,
Pastor Emily

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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

Clerk's Corner

Bath Church now has a new mailing address which is: P.O. Box 24156, Dayton, OH 45424.

Annual reports were printed by Tom Oxley at Presbytery and the report booklets were distributed at church. Those not picked up by the end of the month will be mailed out.

Bank balances as of December 31st: Checking account - \$40,014.03; CDs - \$70,171.06; Money Market - \$15,340.50; Vanguard Wellington - \$101,678.92; Total monies - \$227,204.51 We ended the year with an unexpected budget surplus of \$2,014.97. Sharon has been giving out the 2017 yearly pledge giving record for members and friends. Those not handed out will be mailed.

Ethan has come up with a new Expense/Reimbursement Form for everyone to use. Expense and reimbursement forms are mandatory and must be completed for all non-recurring bills. These forms provide an audit trail, accountability, and help eliminate errors by the Treasurer when writing checks and logging expenses. Each committee chair/Elder is to approve expenses from their designated lines of the operating budget. This approval is

accomplished via the expense/reimbursement form. Any expense that would cause an overage for an operating budget line item or from another line item on the disposition of assets should be approved by Session.

Lent is right around the corner. Pastor Emily will be ordering Lenten devotionals for the congregation. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th, and there will be a service at 7:00 pm. Some Bath members are participating in a Lenten study with the Sweet Communion Book Club at Faith PC on every Wednesday in Lent.

Before Jeff finished his time on session he prepared a list of lay leaders for 2018. Pastor Emily is doing the bulletins now and sending them to Tom Oxley at Presbytery to be printed. Pastor Emily has called a worship committee meeting for February 1st.

Many months in the last year we have had to pay data overage charges. Ethan has made changes to the desk top computer to make it a metered connection so updates will not automatically be downloaded. The WIFI will be turned off at the surge protector and usage will be tracked.

At the last session meeting the decision to re-key the church was discussed again. Although communication with the congregation was poor about the issue, session had discussed this possibility many times in past years. It was not a decision rushed into, but rather one made out of safety of church members by restricting who gets a key. Truly it was not done to alienate anyone. However, session has decided there needs to be a valid reason for someone having a key and access to the church. Having the church re-keyed will be something done every year.

Church Mutual is our insurance company and we feel we are adequately covered for what may happen to the building or people who visit/use the church. This next year we will contact the company to fully review the policy and our needs. We will also be putting together a church incident report that we would need if someone gets injured or has a medical issue while on church property. Session needs to be made aware of any medical occurrences to members or friends while on church property.

In your Bath Church address book please change the email address for Chris Pomfret to cjpomfret1954@gmail.com and his phone number is now: 545-6667. These address books are reprinted each year. If you have changes or updates at any time, please let the clerk know.

The annual congregational meeting was held on January 18th following worship. Pastor Emily summed up the many things that happened in the life of the church in 2017. The clerk thanked Tom Oxley for printing the booklets. Information was also shared about how healthy our presbytery is, where the per capita dollars go, what connectional support pays for, how we are all in covenant together, and how Bath Church

gives 216.99% of our fair share for connectional support (which is 7.5% of our budget). We are being part of the "tie that binds" in our relationship with the presbytery. The necrology report was given and Pastor Emily led the congregation in prayer for Bill and Jo West.

Ethan Johns spoke about how well the church is doing with the budget for 2018, and how the stock market has helped our Vanguard Wellington Fund. Verna Drake brought the nominating committee motion to elect Hazel Pomfret for the unexpired Class of 2018 position. Hazel was elected and will be training and installed soon. Pastor Emily thanked Verna and the 2017 nominating committee.

Previous to the meeting, session elected elder Ethan Johns to serve as moderator of the nominating committee for 2018 and elder Susan Lockwood to serve on the committee. Three more people were needed to complete the 2018 nominating committee. J.O. Miller, Mabel Geis, and Al Beane were elected by voice vote to serve as the other members of the nominating committee for 2018.

Janet Miller volunteered to be the commissioner from Bath Church to the February 10th Presbytery meeting at Memorial PC in Xenia.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Worship

A special "Thank You" to all those that purchased a gift through Alternative Christmas Gifts. \$120 was raised for the local Huber Heights F.I.S.H. pantry. \$370 went to Heifer International for goats and \$70 was sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency. That included \$40 for the water cans for collection of water & \$30 for school supplies for refugees.

Bath has always been a big supporter of F.I.S.H. We have 5 people working in different areas of service there and we always have a lot of donated items. We know how blessed we are not to have to worry about our next meal & it shows with our many donations. January & February we will collect towards soup & other canned items to donate for "Souper Bowl". Please start bringing in your canned goods to church. We will also celebrate February coffee & donuts with soup.

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder

Human Trafficking

The last few months we have talked about ways we can identify possible persons being held in bondage. We have discussed their physical & work conditions and their locations. This month we will go over some personal details.

This person may have no control over their ID documents or finances. They will have few or no personal possessions. They may have an explicit online profile or show truancy from school. They might have new & expensive jewelry, purse or accessories out of their economic status; under 18 and providing unwilling or commercial sex acts, or kept under surveillance when taken to a doctor or clinic for treatment.

The number to report any concerns to is 1
888-3737-888.



Women's Gathering

Samaritan Homeless Clinic Delivery

We donated 10 hygiene kits and the 39 scarves the ladies made at the January meeting plus 35 new articles of clothing.

Monday February 5th Meeting from 10am-3pm

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and work on mission items and party needs. At 2pm we will study Lesson #5 of our Bible study.

Sunday February 11th Valentine Party after Worship

We will have a potluck lunch, reveal 2017 *Secret Sisters in Christ* and draw names for the 2018 *Secret Sisters in Christ*. ALL ladies are invited!



Scripture Focus
FEBRUARY 2018
Epiphany/Lent
O Oriens "O Dayspring"

Job 38:4, 12-13

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding...Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

1. What comfort do you find in knowing that God the Creator holds the beginnings and endings of all of our days?
2. In humility we remember that God alone commands our days. What sin must we confess as we worship Jesus the Dayspring?

Called Presbytery Meeting

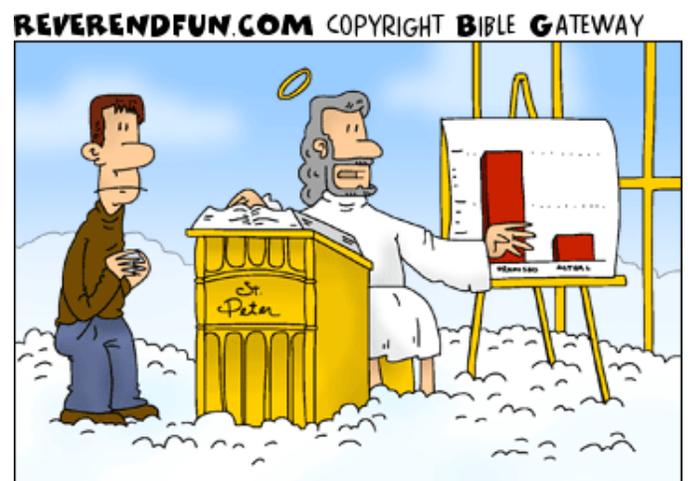
There was a called presbytery meeting on Tuesday, January 16th which was held at Memorial PC at 4:00 pm. There was a quorum throughout the meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer by the moderator.

1. Corresponding members present: Reverend Terry Kukuk, Reverend Nancy Kahaian (Cincy Presby EP), and Reverend Raafat Zaki (Synod Exec).
2. Acting EP Marge Morgan gave a report on Dennis Piermont's health and led the presbytery in prayer.
3. David Foubert, chair of Trustees presented two motions:
 - a. Permission for Dayton: Southminster Church to enter into a letter agreement with a cell tower broker for a 40 year term. It was very advantageous to the church and does not change the presbytery rights.
 - b. To authorize the First Presbyterian Church in Middletown to sell its manse for what its session deemed to be a reasonable, fair market price. The church will use the proceeds to fund the pastor's housing allowance.
4. TE Diane Ziegler, chair of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee, presented Reverend Terry Kukuk as the person to be our next EP. Diane shared the process that was done by the committee. Background information had been shared in advance. Terry read her statement of faith and received questions from the presbyters. After a time of questions and comments Reverend Kukuk was escorted from the room, along with her family. There was a secret paper ballot. The moderator declared that there were 52 votes to approve Reverend Kukuk as our new EP and 2 opposed. Reverend Kukuk was invited to

return to the meeting where everyone stood, applauded, and sang the Doxology. Reverend Kukuk accepted the position of EP of the Miami Valley Presbytery. After the meeting the moderator, along with the EP Search Committee, signed the paperwork. She will begin on or about March 1st.

5. The chair of Leadership Council, Kelley Shin, explained that there were still a few things that needed to be taken care of for the search committee. There was a motion for the committee to spend up to \$2,500 from presbytery reserves to complete the process. Kelley expressed gratitude to the EP Search Committee for its diligent work to present a candidate for election, and she commended the Committee continue its work in assisting in the welcome of Reverend Kukuk and her family to our midst, and dissolve the committee when that work is finished.
6. The meeting was closed in prayer by the moderator. We adjourned to enjoy a soup and bread dinner with the new EP in the fellowship hall.

Jeff Whitaker
Commissioner



IN THIS CHART WE CAN SEE YOUR
PROMISED GOOD DEEDS COMPARED TO YOUR
ACTUAL FOLLOW THROUGH

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study Worship Meeting 6:30 pm	2	3
4 Session Prayer Time 10:30 Coffee and Donuts	5 W.G. 10 – 3 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Presbytery Meeting 9:00 am at Memorial PC in Xenia
11 Holy Communion Secret Sister Valentine Party Youth Group	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm service	15 Bible Study	16	17 Roberta P.
18 Session Meeting Duane F.	19 Pam Byrd craft group 6 - 9	20	21 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith	22	23	24 Monica J.
25 Youth Group	26	27	28 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith			
Sun						