

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
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January 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings and Peace to you in this New Year,
Bath Presbyterian Church!

I hope everyone's holidays were restful and an enjoyable time spent with loved ones. Worship Christmas Eve was especially moving for me. I cherish those images of Christmas Eve communion with you all, as well as looking out through the darkness into your candle-illuminated faces singing Silent Night! Awesome! Also, sincerest thanks and appreciation for all the cards and gifts for my family that you showered us with for Christmas!

Something new I would like to try for 2017 is a Bible Study/Discipleship journey. The chosen curriculum is entitled, "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels. Its intention is to demystify evangelism. Stay tuned for dates and times!

Also, beginning January 2017, my Thursday office hours will increase to 9:30-3:30. Please continue to call/text/email for an appointment during this time, as needed.



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Finally, here is a New Year's prayer I read this week and wanted to share:

Dear God,

May my life be of use to you this year. May my talents and intelligence help heal the world. May I remember how much I have by remembering how much I have to give. May I not be tempted by smaller things but fulfill my larger mission of forgiveness and love. May I know joy this coming year and beyond. Bless me and work through me to bless the entire world. Amen!

Blessings on your 2017!
-Pastor Emily

Sunday January 8th

Installation and Ordination of

Ethan Johns and Verna Drake

as Elders for the Class of

2019

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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Clerk's Corner

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 Happy New Year brothers and sisters!

Often in the year Bath Church is used by people outside our congregation. There is always an appreciation and respect for the history of the church. Recently there was a wedding for one of Claire Harsh's grandchildren. The family and guests at the wedding enjoyed the space at Bath and were respectful of using the building. Soon Faith Presbyterian Church will use our space for a session retreat. After that Verna Drake will host a large Kairos group for a few Saturdays at Bath. Val Quinn and her mission group, My Brother's Keeper, also enjoy using the friendship hall from time to time during the year. This is part of our mission to build up the body of Christ. Session is pleased to share the building and be able to help support these groups in their work.

Pastor Emily has 5 ½ days of study leave from 2016 which will be rolled over to 2017. There is also left over annual continuing education monies which will be rolled over to 2017. As a church, we encourage our pastor to take vacation time and study leave to renew her spirit. As the New Year begins Pastor Emily will start working 19 hours a week at Bath instead of the 15 hours previously.

Sadly, General Assembly Co-Moderator Jan Edmiston will not be able to preach at Bath on February 12th. After preaching at the

Presbytery meeting on February 11th, and sharing time later in the afternoon for a short talk/question and answer period, she must go back to her presbytery in Chicago. This would have been quite the opportunity for Bath, but more good things will certainly come along. Bath has come a long way from the years when often we didn't attend Presbytery meetings. We are setting the standard for small churches.

Session committee chairs for 2017 are: Admin/Finance – Ethan Johns; CE/Media – Judy Morin; Fellowship – Susan Lockwood; Mission/Outreach – Verna Drake; Property – Larry Byrd; Worship – Jeff Whitaker. Pastor Emily explained to all committee chairs that there should be at least quarterly meetings. Anyone is invited to join the committees there is no need to wait and be asked. If you have ideas or concerns, please see the committee chair or Pastor Emily.

New calling lists were handed out at the last session meeting. These are used to quickly disseminate information to the congregation. For example, if the decision is made by the pastor, clerk, and a quorum of session to cancel service due to bad weather a session elder will make phone calls to pass along that information. Also, watch for closing information scrolling on WHIO if there is a need to cancel service.

A new directory was recently printed and handed out. Ann Davis now has a new phone number which is 506-8554. Please update that in the new directory.

Each year there are Presbyterian reports that the clerk of session must turn in to the Presbytery and PC (USA). These reports are questions and statistical information that is shared among six different Presbyterian agencies. At the last session meeting these were shared and approved and will be entered into the data base by the clerk.

Bank balances as of November 30th are: Checking \$88,715.49; Savings \$536.92; CD \$14,794.28; Vanguard Wellington \$86,704.62; Total: \$190,751.31.

At the December session meeting the treasurer gave a "state of the church" finance report for the 2016 year. We are ending the year with a healthy surplus. A new management of cash reserves was approved by session. We will invest in a ladder of certificates of deposit (CDs) through PNC bank. The first will be a CD for 4 months at an interest rate of 0.15%, there will be a second CD for 8 months at interest rate of 0.20%, and then a third CD for 13 months at interest rate of 0.40%. The first CD would mature after 4 months and would then be reinvested for the 13 month at the higher rate of 0.40%, as would the 8 month CD when that also matured 4 months later. This ladder effect would ensure that we would have CDs maturing every 4 – 5 months which could then be reinvested at the higher 0.40% interest. The treasurer will put \$70,000 into the 3 CDs reducing our checking account to approximately \$20,000

Session approved the donation of a can opener for the kitchen donated by the Swingley/West families. Session also approved the Swingley's donation of a used lap top computer to replace the old one in the admin room. The old

computer will be stripped of all programs and disposed of. A thank you note will be sent to the family in appreciation of these gifts to the church.

Following the December session meeting Pastor Emily and Gidget Collins met with elder-elect Ethan Johns for training and examination. Ethan will be ordained on January 8th.

On behalf of session, may this be a Faithful, Happy, and Healthy New Year for each family at Bath as we show the love of Christ to each other and those we meet.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Worship

Many THANKS to all who participated in the Advent activities: hanging of the greens, lighting the Advent candles, hanging the memorial ornaments, donating poinsettias, performing in the Advent program, carolling, serving Holy Communion, reading at the Christmas Eve Service and providing all the special music this season.

On Saturday January 7th, we will take down decorations beginning at 9am.

On Sunday January 8th, Holy Communion will be served. We also will have the installation and ordination of elders for the Class of 2019.

Mabel Geis
Worship Session Elder

Property

Over the past couple months, we have accomplished the furnaces serviced, the

building exterior spray-washed, State of Ohio inspection of the Vertical Lift, and of course the routine cleaning and maintenance.

A special "Thanks" to Dan Geis for his continued personal ministry caring for the church building and grounds.

A special "Thanks" to Larry Byrd for his staining skills of the Nursery Door.

As I switch committees for the 2017 church year, I want to "Thank You" for your prayers, your commitment, and your dedication to the Property Committee for 2016. We the Property Committee appreciate it!

Jeff Whitaker and the Property Committee



WOMEN'S GATHERING NEWS

Samaritan Homeless Clinic Delivery

Donations given to the clinic, including those from the "Blessing Tree" at the Women's Christmas Party: 71 hats, 38 pairs of gloves, 12 scarves, 11 pairs of socks and 23 new clothing items. Also given were 11 scarves the ladies tied at the party, 3 scarves knitted by our ladies and 46 pair of ski gloves bought from the Women's Gathering funds. 26 hygiene kits, 7 large toiletries, plus used bedding and 4 bags of used warm clothing items were also delivered.

Christmas Bazaars

We had GREAT sales at the Bazaars. **THANK YOU!**

Alternate Christmas Bazaar

The WG made donations to all four categories.

Donation to the *Breast Cancer Research Foundation*

A \$200.00 check was given. This was from funds received as donations and "pink table" sales.

Tuesday January 9th Meeting from 10am-3pm

We will study Lesson #4 of our NEW Bible study from the *Horizons* magazine titled, "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 and work on homeless scarves and bags.

Sunday February 12th 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!



Bath Presbyterian Church January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor Linda Neice pulpit supply Coffee and donuts Pastor Emily on vacation.	2 Pastor Emily on vacation Susan and Rick L.	3	4 Aaron S.	5	6	7 Take down decorations at church
8 Holy Communion Ordination/installation of Ethan and Verna	9 W.G. 10 – 3 pm	10	11	12 Omer L. Omer and Maudie L.	13	14 Dianna W.
15 Session	16 Martin Luther King Day	17	18	19	20 Dan G.	21
22 Annual Congregational Meeting	23 Harris F.	24	25 Mouse Input Due	26	27 Donna S.	28 Val Quinn using F.H.
29 Madeline H.	30	31	Notes:			