

## ***Bath Church Mouse***

**Bath Presbyterian Church  
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September 2018

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

In July, I was able to go to an amazing conference thanks to you all! As part of the Pastor's salary package Bath Church provides, I am allotted two weeks of continuing education training to attend a conference or retreat to expand my biblical, theological and church history knowledge or to develop new ways to understand spirituality, church relationships or network and gather support and experience from other pastors. This summer I attended the 2018 Young Clergy Women International conference in St. Louis, MO. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis; a biblical scholar from Luther Seminary in Chicago. Her lessons were on Embodiment and Incarnation in the New Testament, especially in the gospel of John, her area of expertise.

We began and ended each day with worship, led by clergy women from PCUSA, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Disciples of Christ and UCC denominations. This allowed us all to experience the different styles of worship that flavors each denomination. After each keynote session, we broke into small covenant groups to discuss the questions the keynote speaker assigned us. We were also invited to share our blessings and struggles in our various current call settings.

In the evenings, there were many social opportunities we were invited to take part in. Two nights I chose to attend Q&A sessions with Dr. Lewis in the hotel lobby. These were amazing! It was truly a gift to be able to pick her brain and experience her enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of scripture.

Whenever our lectionary takes us to John's gospel, I will definitely be pulling out my notes from this conference to review for my sermon preparation.

It was also such a blessing to be surrounded by such amazing female clergy and honor those women who

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came before us that allowed for such a gathering to occur in the first place.

I am very grateful for this opportunity that you all allowed and encouraged!

Blessings,  
Pastor Emily

### ***New Adult Sunday Classes!***



Beginning September 9, an Adult Sunday Class will be held after Sunday Breakfast until 10:10am. First, Becky Mast will lead "100 Challenges in Christian Ethics" by presenting a typical life situation, sharing a Bible verse that addresses the issue and guiding an undoubtedly lively discussion.

Then, once a month to be interspersed with Becky's class schedule and beginning on October 28, Janet Miller will lead "Teach Us to Pray," based on her final projects in Theological Reflections and Spiritual Formation under her Older Adult Ministry Certification process. This study will encourage conversation and learning as you explore various types and styles of prayer becoming open to a freshness in your practice.

## Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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### **Clerk's Corner**

Here are some of the highlights discussed or decided at the last session meeting. Huge thanks to Susan Lockwood who took minutes until the Clerk arrived back from pulpit supplying at Belle Center PC.

Session approved a visioning group to begin at Bath to begin work looking forward for our church. The group is being initiated by Chris Pomfret but anyone at church can join or participate in the group.

Session approved and unanimously endorsed Gidget Collins as she begins work to become a Certified Ruling Elder (CRE) through the University of Dubuque Theology Seminary. There were forms to be filled out from the session and turned in to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). With session input Emily filled out the forms and will turn them in to CPM. Verna Drake was elected as the church liaison for Gidget.

Session serves as the personnel committee at Bath. Using Emily's contract, areas were reviewed by session and Pastor Emily. Session will renew the contract with Emily for the 2019 year.

Emily was on study leave in July at the Young Clergy Women International conference which was held in St. Louis. The conference was on Embodiment in the gospels and taught by Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis. This was on the Gospel of John and Emily has been using this in her sermons. Session felt it would be good for Emily to share with the congregation and session more information about her study leave time.

There was a VBS wrap-up meeting at Faith PC. Deb and Emily attended. Next year there will be two different dates but we will be intentional

about working together. Curriculum has been chosen. The set from this year that normally runs \$400 was on sale for \$19 and was purchased. There is a feeling that publicity needs to be better next year.

Emily will be attending a "support network for clergy" once a month that usually runs from 10:00 – 12 noon. On the third week of the month she is on CPM at Presbytery, which usually runs two hours. Beginning in September her hours will be 9:30 – 4:30, except the third week and the week when the clergy support happens. It was suggested she let people know her hours for each week.

Verna Drake will be the commissioner from our church for the September 11th Presbytery meeting at Oxford PC. All are invited to attend. Only the commissioner may sign up to vote, but any member from church may attend the meeting.

Bank balances as of July 31st: Checking account - \$52,867.58; CDs - \$70,260.96; Money Market - \$15,346.80; Vanguard Wellington - \$103,938.58; Total monies - \$242,413.92 The Treasurer transition is going well. We are very grateful to Steve Mast for accepting the position as treasurer, and very grateful to Hazel for her work as treasurer. J.O. and Brad have both agreed to serve on a committee for the church audit.

Gidget Collins  
Clerk of Session

### **Fellowship**

The annual Fish Fry was once again an enormous success! Thanks to all who helped especially Clyde & Co for providing the fish.

We had such a good time at our last Game Night that we've decided to have another one, and again invited our friends from Faith

Presbyterian. It will be on Friday, September 28th, from 6:30 to 8:30. Bring a friend, your favorite game, and a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

Susan Lockwood  
Fellowship Session Elder

## **Worship**

We are in need of greeters for the month of September. If you feel you would like to be a greeter and hand out the bulletins, add your name to one of the empty weeks. There is such pleasure in greeting folks on a Sunday morning. There is a second sign up for flowers. Add your name to that if you wish to honor someone or in memory of a loved one, or just because there is an empty date and you enjoy seeing fresh flowers each Sunday.

Holy Communion will be served during the worship service on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will also be celebrating communion on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>, which is World Communion Sunday.

Brad Hitchcock, our sound engineer, works hard to ensure we have a working sound system. The church recently purchased a new CD player for the sanctuary which Brad has installed and was used for the first time in worship on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Hazel Pomfret  
Worship Session Elder

## **Christian Education**

Autumn is sneaking up on us and the same is true of a new year for Sunday School. Our kick-off will be Sunday (Of course!), September 9!

We are blessed that Deb Hitchcock and Verna Drake will be leading our youngest participants with their continuing curriculum. Additionally, Dan Geis will be offering his weekly video class. With all the material to choose from, he does a

great job picking topics that are relevant for today.

Another option for adults is new! Becky Mast has brought to us "100 Challenges in Christian Ethics " with very up-to-date topics. The format includes a Bible verse and a question to stimulate, contemplate and discuss about real, now situations. Part of the beauty is that anyone can lead the lesson any week. That's not all! Starting in October, once a month, Dr. Janet Miller will be offering lessons delving into prayer including prayer postures, styles, and methods from various religions over the centuries. Lesson time will be limited to 40 minutes for Adult classes to facilitate participation in other Sunday morning activities.

Of course Chrismons are coming soon! Don't you know? Christmas is just around the corner!

Come one, come all! Everyone is welcome.

Judy Morin  
Christian Ed Session Elder

## **Mission**

### **ONE DAY CONFERENCE ON AGING, COLUMBUS OH**

Chris Pomfret, as vice president of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries network, (POAMN) has been helping to organize a regional conference on Aging in Columbus on Fri Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be 12 workshops to choose from and a keynote speech by Rev. Ray Jones, the Director of Evangelism at PCUSA in Louisville and is actively engaged with POAMN's mission. A booklet with all the details of the day's activities is on the table in the Narthex as are registration forms. Early-bird registration (before Sep 12<sup>th</sup>) is just \$25, which includes breakfast and lunch. A block of rooms at a nearby hotel has been reserved for just \$99 incl dinner and breakfast. This will be an informative and enriching event with a short worship service to start the day and exhibitors to

learn from. The only issue will be deciding which 3 workshops to attend from the 12 on offer. Please see Chris if you have questions.

Verna Drake  
Mission Session Elder



## **Women's Gathering Month of August Collection**

THANK YOU for the generous donations of items for the hygiene kits for the Samaritan Homeless Clinic. We participate in this project throughout the year and donations are accepted at any time.

### **Saturday Sept. 8th Presbytery PW meeting from 9am-1pm**

The meeting is at Xenia Memorial PC. On the agenda is a speaker from the global exchange in Indonesia. We will also receive suggestions for our new Bible study from the *Horizons*. Reservations are \$7.00. See Judy or Mabel if you wish to attend.

### **Monday September 10th - Activities from 10am-3pm**

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and make crafts, including baby items. At **2pm** we will study Lesson #1 of our NEW Bible study "God's Promise: I Am with You", the 2018-2019 *Horizons* Bible study. This will take readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated His promise of His presence. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the past and also today in our lives. Each lesson begins with an excerpt from a Psalm that lends itself to the special group prayer. In every lesson we will also study

a woman from the Bible to discover God's fingerprint on her life. COME JOIN US!

### ***Stitches of Love* Baby Shower at Bath on Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> after Worship**

Join us for a baby shower at Bath which includes a potluck lunch and tying baby blankets. We will then deliver these gifts to the *Stitches of Love* annual baby shower on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Memorial PC.



## **What does it take to be an Elder?**

Book of Order tells us that as in the Old Testament, elders are for the government of the people. In the emerging church of the New Testament, persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry were called to serve the community. In fact, the title we share as Presbyterians comes from the Greek word *presbyteros*, or elders. Today elders are chosen by the people of the church. Elders exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large.

An Elder needs to be a person of faith, dedication, and good judgment. An Elder's manner of life needs to be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God; equip and renew the people for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world; and visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the

poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are hurting in other ways.

On our Session we share the tasks and opportunities. Some things we work on as a full team, other areas we divide and create teams that help get things accomplished.

It is time for us to select Elders for the Session class of 2021. It is time for the members of Bath Church to nominate and elect new elders. This year's elder nominating committee consists of Ethan Johns (Chair), Susan Lockwood, J.O. Miller, Mabel Geis, Al Beane, and Pastor Emily (Ex-Officio). We are looking for two people to serve as elders for the class of 2021.

If you know someone you feel would be an asset to the leadership of Bath Church, or if you believe you may be that someone, please write that name on the special insert that will be in the bulletins over the next couple of weeks and drop it in the collection plate or give it to any member of the nominating committee.

Thank you!

Ethan Johns  
Session Nominating Committee

### **Where's Gidget?**

A faith journey is never just one thing that happens but rather a multitude of small things that start adding up. Most of you have all heard my "Kohl's Story" that happened the first Thursday of this year. Truly that was a big part of what has been stirring in me the past few months. So was being Moderator of Presbytery as I traveled around visiting our "Mighty 49" churches.

With the support and nudge of family, friends, and colleagues I began thinking about becoming a Certified Ruling Elder (CRE). It feels like doors opened and opportunities were offered that made this dream a reality for me. I

have registered, been accepted, and am enrolled in my first classes at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary for the CRE program (located in Iowa). This particular program is online and consists of nine classes which should take anywhere from 18 months to two years to complete (Class of 2020 maybe). As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter Session has endorsed this and Verna Drake is my liaison from Bath. At this current time I do not anticipate my volunteer work with Bath to be effected.

Ever since joining the pulpit supply list for the Presbytery I have been blessed, honored, and privileged to preach at many churches each Sunday this summer. Preaching filled a hole in me that I didn't know existed, and allows me to live a dream I didn't know I had. I certainly miss seeing you and being in worship together with my home church family. The downside to this new adventure is being away from Bath, which as many of you have said, is bittersweet. Without the involvement at Bath and the opportunities to preach that began at Bath this would not have happened. Do know you are always with me in spirit though. Many sentences in other churches begin with "at my home church..." because I speak of you with deep fondness.

I get to be back at Bath for World Wide Communion Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be with you for November and December. Furthermore, I am excited to serve as pulpit supply for you all for two Sundays in November and the last Sunday of this year in December. Those will be very special days for me as we worship the Lord together; and I know Ella will enjoy being back home as well. All of us at Bath are growing in our relationship with God, taking those steps of faith that lead us closer to Him. May we all hold each other up in our daily prayers.

Gidget

# Bath Presbyterian Church

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Coffee and donuts	<b>3</b> Labor Day	<b>4</b>  Brittany B.	<b>5</b>  Larry B. Al B.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Val and My Brother's Keeper Mission Group using F.H.  PW of the PMV meeting
<b>9</b> Property Meeting after worship  Emmeline F.	<b>10</b> W.G. 10 – 3 pm	<b>11</b> Presbytery Meeting at Oxford Presbyterian Church 3:00 pm  Becky M. Bob P.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Session  Holy Communion  Susan L.	<b>17</b> Pam craft group in F.H.  Carolyn C.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Verna and Paul 50 years!	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Jackie B.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  John B.	<b>28</b> Game Night 6:30 – 8:30	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Stitches of Love baby shower after worship						