



Bethel Beacon

NOVEMBER 2017

PARSONAL PONDERINGS

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...

Matthew 10:28a (NRSV)

“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

The recent sermon series on the five solas was intended to remind us of five foundational truths of our faith:

- 1) The Bible alone is our highest authority (Sola Scriptura – “Scripture alone”)
- 2) Salvation is through faith alone (Sola Fide – “Faith alone”)
- 3) We are saved by the grace of God – period – nothing more and nothing less (Sola Gratia – “Grace alone”)
- 4) Jesus Christ is our Lord, Saviour and King (Solus Christus – “Christ alone”).
- 5) We live for the glory of God alone. (Soli Deo Gloria – “To the glory of God alone”)

Other truths were also rediscovered or highlighted by the reformers, including the priesthood of all believers, which will be a theme for October 29.

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of The Protestant Reformation on October 29, may we humbly and joyfully reflect on how the foundational truths that were highlighted by the Reformation have touched our lives. A couple of ways that come to mind are: 1) The Bible is available to us in our language rather than in Latin which meant only some could read and study it. 2) We enjoy congregational singing as opposed to having only the priest and choir chanting. 3) We can pray directly to God and are not required to have an intermediary other than Jesus himself. 4) We are not required to personally pay for our sins but are saved by God’s grace made available through faith.

These are truths that bring freedom. These are messages that bring hope. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is for the salvation of the world.

Throughout November, we’ll be considering how we as Christians live faithfully and fruitfully in a world full of violence and hatred. Though sometimes we can’t imagine it, God has given us the only thing that can overcome the evil of the world. May we prayerfully consider how God may use these truths in guiding Bethel in reaching out beyond our walls with this good news.

Joyfully in Jesus,

Pastor Paul

FALL FESTIVAL AND BAR-B-QUE
SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 11



It's that time of the year again!!! Our Fall Festival and Bar-B-Que will be held this year on November 11 from 4 PM to 7 PM.

EAT IN AT FELLOWSHIP HALL

Our meal is an all you care to eat meal which includes bar-b-que, pintos, slaw, hush puppies, drink, and your choice of any homemade desserts. The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall starting at 4.

ADULTS \$10.00

CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER \$5.00

TAKE OUT AT SHELTER

BAR-B-QUE BY THE POUND \$7.00 PER POUND

Take Out Plates will be available at the Shelter starting at 4 PM also. Plates at the Shelter include Bar-B-Que, slaw, pintos, and hush puppies.

PLATES \$9.00

DESSERTS \$1.00 EACH

SIDE ORDERS OF PINTOS, SLAW AND HUSH PUPPIES \$1.00 EACH

PRE-SOLD SHOULDERS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A WHOLE SHOULDER, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP ON SATURDAY AT 2 PM. THEY CAN BE ORDERED WHOLE OR CHOPPED. TO ORDER PLEASE CALL TONY ANDREWS AT 336-908-4150 NO LATER THAN THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2ND, AS THEY WILL NEED TO BE ORDERED ON THE 3RD.

WHOLE \$50

CHOPPED \$55.00

BAR-B-QUE SAUCE \$4.00 PER BOTTLE

DID YOU KNOW...

Thank You!

- To Members of Bethel Presbyterian Church,
I would like to thank you for your generosity that you showed by having our football over for pregame meal on September 22nd. On behalf of our coaches, administration, and players, we would like to tell you how much we appreciated the time spent at Bethel. The meal, fellowship and goody bags were all great and we are thankful that we have a community that cares for us and our young people. As a believer, I know how important a divine presence is and how important it is for our football team. I also know how important meshing our football team into our community is here and how much that helps our football team. Our players and coaches work hard to be prepared on Thursday and Friday night to give the community a good product to put on the field that you can be proud of. We again appreciate all you did for us and we do appreciate your continued support of Wildcat football. God bless you and your church.
Sincerely,
Doug Robertson/Eastern Guilford Head Football Coach
- Dear Bethel Family,
On behalf of the entire Dawson Family, we wish to thank you for your many acts of kindness. Your cards, prayers, calls, flowers and food were truly a blessing. Thank you again.

Howard & Peggy

College Students

Bethel college students had a Halloween surprise in the mail. In their “We’re going BATTY without you!” box, they found candy from the Companions Circle. Katelyn, Bryce, Mitch, Misha, Pete and Seth, we hope you enjoyed it. Thanks for the picture Katelyn.



McLeansville Lions Club

It is time for Brunswick Stew. The Lions will be cooking stew on the first Saturday of November, December, January, and February. The cost is \$7.00 per quart. If you would like some stew, preorder at 336-697-1600 or see Jim Flippin. Pickup will be at the McLeansville Lions Club on the first Saturday of each month.

It is time of the year for working in the yard and spreading pine needles. The McLeansville Lions Club has pine needles for \$5.00 per bale. See Jim Flippin or call the number on the sign at the Lions Club to arrange for delivery.

COMMITTEES

Companions Circle

The Companion Circle will meet on Thursday, November 16th. At 6:30 PM at the home of Judy Hankins. Sue Flippin will have our devotion, and Jackie Burney will lead our study. Our study this year is called “Twelve Women of the Bible, Life Changing Stories for Women Today”. Our study in November will be on Leah. We are enjoying an exciting study, so we hope that you’ll plan on joining us in November and each month afterwards. If you have questions about Circle or you need a ride to circle, please call Sharon Smith at 336-601-4741.

Evaluation Committee

Thanks to all that completed evaluation forms. These will provide insights into your thoughts concerning our programs, activities and worship. The information helps us strengthen those programs and activities you enjoyed and make changes where we have problems. The session will continue to review the information over the next few months and use your input to establish goals and programs for 2018.

Thanks again for your input, prayers and continued support for Bethel’s committees, programs, fellowship and worship activities. We look forward to a great Holiday Season and a strong 2018.

Evangelism

We are trying to place two Bethel Presbyterian Church signs in the community. Locations considered are the intersection of McLeansville Road and Friedens Church Road as well as the intersection of Highway 70 and Rock Creek Dairy Road.

New apartments or townhomes are being constructed on Golf House Road at Stoney Creek. A project the committee is considering is placing welcome bags at the doors of the new tenants if possible.

Events for 2018 are being considered. If you have any suggestions, please see Jackie Burney or Judy Hankins. We would love to hear your ideas or experiences.

Missions



WHAT’S GOING ON WITH MISSIONS COMMITTEE LATELY???

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s *Book of Order* declares that “*the mission of the church is given form by God’s activity in the world as told in the Bible and understood by faith.*” We are to be “*the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.*”

Presbyterians believe mission is not so much an obligation but an opportunity — to see how God, who is already present in all places, can and does work in marvelous new ways helping us grow in our own faith and commitment to Christ’s mission. It will mean continuing to risk, question, grow and seek, through prayer and interactions with others, what it is that we are called by the Holy Spirit to do as faithful servants of Christ. Please consider joining our committee to help serve others. We meet every 3rd Monday!

CROP WALK 2017

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a walker for the annual crop walk! We raised \$700. How awesome is God! Praise our Holy Lord for granting us the privilege to walk for such a dedicated organization and Step By Step until all are fed we will walk! In case you are wondering how the raised monies could be used, I have included some examples.



- **\$72** can provide emergency food supplies for the needs of a family of five for a month.
- **\$120** can enable three women to attend a literacy class for a year and change their lives forever.
- **\$200** can provide a struggling farm family with a water buffalo to significantly increase their food production, as well as a strong back to carry product to market.
- **\$350** can enable the eldest in a child-headed household of AIDS orphans to receive vocational training so they can support their siblings and themselves.

WARMING TREE



We have started collecting hats, scarves and mittens for local school children. At the request of the elementary schools, we also ask for underwear, socks, and long pants to help keep kids warm and dry after falling in puddles or spilling food trays.

Hand of Hope

Beginning November 1st, we will be collecting items for the Hand of Hope ministry. These items help in-house patients dealing with mental illness. The smallest of items such as a beanie baby can lend a tremendous amount of compassion to someone who is struggling with mental illness. This ministry is very important to show our love, compassion and a way to offer comfort to some during a crisis situation. Please be on the lookout for our list in the vestibule.

Session

Session met on October 22nd. Actions taken were:

- Examination & Reception of new members: Donna Bennett, Becky Lowdermilk, Ashley Smith and Steven Stiles
- Annual Session Retreat January 13th with January 20th as alternate
- Election of Jim Flippin to represent our Session and Pastor Paul at a meeting with Bryan McFarland and COM in Clemmons on October 26th. Other attendees requesting to attend: Betsy Green and Jackie Burney
- Date of Dec. 3 at 5:00 PM for next Session meeting with Sherri Amoriello leading devotions and outgoing members Don Gerringer, Darren Stroud and Jackie Burney providing the traditional meal
- Election of Jim Flippin as Commissioner to Presbytery Meeting on November 14th at St. James Presbyterian Church
- Called Special Session meeting for Sunday, October 29th, at 1:30 PM for the purpose of prayer, training, hearing the report of the October 26th meeting with COM and determining the next action(s) regarding concerns expressed regarding the pastoral situation and compensation
- Addition of nativity set for Sanctuary to Wish List with Worship Committee setting parameters
- Permission to Worship Committee to form task force to research and to propose future ways to honor fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen around Memorial Day and all military veterans around Veterans Day
- Transferred membership of Anna Pell Broadwell to the Eternal Congregation

Stewardship & Finance

The figures for the month of September are as follows:

Giving: \$14,352.37
Expenses: \$ 8,228.77

The figures for the year to date time period are as follows:

Giving: \$80,046.72
Expenses: \$78,303.36

In September we gave more than we spent. For the first nine months of the year, we also gave more than we spent. The amount that we received from the sale of the property we owned in Florida is included in our giving figure for September. That amount was \$4,686.37. As always, we are grateful for your continued faithful support of the mission figures in mind, which means that we need to collect \$1,654.00 each week in order to meet our 2017 budget of \$103,208.00.

We are very blessed here at Bethel to have such beautiful grounds and buildings to worship, work and minister in as we strive to be a light to our community. Thank you to each one of you who continues to be so faithful in your giving and in your serving. If you were not prepared to turn in your monetary pledge card on Dedication Sunday, October 29th, it's not too late. You may turn in your monetary pledge cards in the weeks ahead. Simply place them in the offering plate or give them to Tim Smith.

As always, thank you for all that you give and do in God's name.

Worship

GRACE AND GRATITUDE IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

At our recent Worship and Music Committee meeting, we took time to be reminded that the Directory for Worship section of our *Book of Order* has undergone some changes in wording. W-1.0101 reminds us that Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We gather in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us...particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are then sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world. W-2.0301 helps us understand that God pours out the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon each Christian in Baptism, and all are called to use these gifts for the glory of God. Therefore, it is appropriate for *any member* of the church to pray, read Scripture, or assist in worship in other ways according to his or her gifts. Of course, we all must realize that by their gifts and training, some are called to particular acts of leadership in worship and have particular responsibilities for ordering the service. These specific roles and responsibilities are undertaken in service to God and to the congregation, and should in no way diminish the leadership of other members or overshadow the primary participation of the worshiping assembly. W-3.0103 tells us an Order of Worship (usually found in a bulletin format) offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church's encounter with the living God. Over time, an Order of Worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world.

An article in the magazine *Presbyterians Today* contains a quote from Teresa L. Stricklen who writes, "Presbyterian worship comes in many forms, but you'll always know when it's Presbyterian." The order of worship recommended for Presbyterian churches grows out of a theology that helps us understand the structure of Christian life itself. Worship comes in four parts: We gather...to hear God's Word...to respond with thanksgiving...to be sent with blessing. Let us take a few minutes to look at each of the four sections named above. We are called together by God who wants to be in communion with us. How, then, can we not praise? Even as we enter into God's presence with adoration, we realize that in and of ourselves, we are not worthy to stand in the midst of God's holiness. Thus, we confess our sin and need for Christ's righteousness. We are assured of forgiveness and are at peace within and among ourselves, ready to conform our lives to what God longs to say to us. In order to hear God's Word and words for us, we ask for the Spirit's help to hear the Lord speaking among all the human words of our tradition...first and foremost in Scripture...but also in preaching, in time with children or youth, in prayers and in music or other forms of art that seek to communicate God's gracious good will. At the center of our worship, then, is an attention to God speaking so we must listen with our ears and our hearts. To respond with thanksgiving, we hear and respond

(Worship continued)

to God's Word in faith, expressed in acts of consecration...in songs, through confession of faith, in Christ's prayer for the world, and in offering ourselves to further God's work in the world. As we offer ourselves, we find the offering of God's self in Christ spread out on a table of remembrance in thanksgiving. Deeply grateful, we are called into deeper communion with Christ to continue his ministry to the world. *To be sent with blessing* we go forth from our worship service rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, confident of grace in Jesus Christ, to continue to glorify God in all that we do. As we have been blessed, so we seek to extend that blessing to the world as members of Christ's body.

The Worship and Music Committee would like to offer our thanks to each of you who helped to make our Autumn Leaf outdoor worship service on October 15 a blessing to all who attended. Our Good Lord gave us a beautiful autumn day with both sunshine and a nip in the air. Bobby and Donna Chappell touched our hearts with their testimonies and the Southern Sunday Band led us in offering praise and thanksgiving for all the beauty God gives us in creation and strength to overcome the adversities of life we daily face. Sincere thanks to all who invited and brought guests, to those who brought delicious foods for us to enjoy for lunch and to Beth and the Ministry Committee who prepared tables and the fellowship hall and to Tony, Tim, and the Property Committee who had cleaned the stage and vesper dale area to make our morning more comfortable. Special thanks, also, for your love gift that was presented to the group for making time to come and join us for this special service. Please share any suggestions for future services of this kind.

November dates to remember include:

5...the last of our First Sunday worship services in the fellowship hall for this year as we will worship in the sanctuary all Sundays in December. The Mission Committee will be in charge of refreshments before our service.

9...regular Worship/Music Committee meeting

11...Bethel BBQ day where all help will be appreciated from all committees

12...recognition of our Veterans

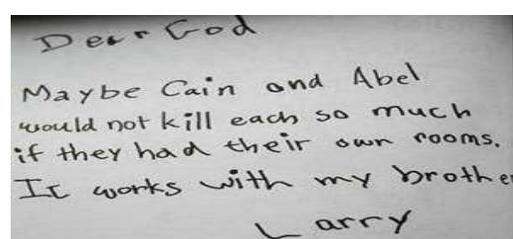
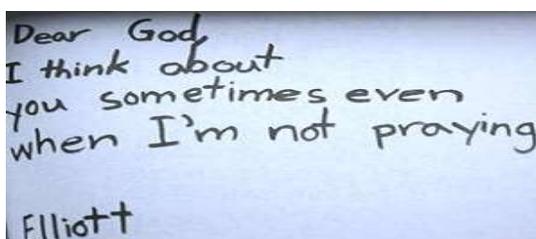
23...Thanksgiving holiday

Ushers/Greeters for November will be Sherri Amoriello, Katelyn Welborn, Ben Miles, and Jim or Sue Flippin.

*Committee members moved items from the vestibule area so that the Warming Tree sponsored by the Missions Committee could have space for the items that will be donated. *Hymnals and Bibles in the pews were also checked as there had been reports received of mildew on some books in the lower pew racks in the back three rows of the sanctuary. ***Books have been removed for cleaning and we ask that those who sit in these pews on Sunday replace their books on the end of the pew rather than in the racks near the floor. We will appreciate your help in this matter as we want to keep all resources as clean and dry as possible for future use and to increase the life of our books.

*Greyson is working to move the choral library to the choir room and we have welcomed a new choir member as Donna Bennett has joined the alto section. Work is being done with the choir chimes Becky has so kindly loaned so this group can be ready to perform for the congregation when the Christmas cantata is presented on December 17. Plans are already in the works for our December Advent Season and morning and evening worship on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve where we will celebrate communion only at the evening service.

Laughter Is Good for the Soul!



PRAY

WHAT IF YOU WOKE UP TODAY WITH ONLY THE THINGS YOU THANKED GOD FOR YESTERDAY?

PRAYER AFTER THE MASSACRE IN LAS VEGAS

God of our life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance,
As the sound of gunfire again echoes over another American city,
we seek the grounding power of your love and compassion.

As death rained down from above in the dark of night,
We pray this day for the Sun of Righteousness to arise with healing in its
wings, and rain mercy, grace and peace upon our broken people.

So many have been lost: brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends
gathered in the unity of music, scattered by evil and hatred.

We pray for solace for all who loved them.

We pray for those who have been spared and those whose lives are changed
forever that they may find healing, sustenance, and strength in the hard days to
come.

We give thanks for first responders:

 who ran toward gunfire, rather than away
 who dropped everything to save the wounded and comfort survivors

We pray for doctors and nurses and mental health providers:

 who repair what has been broken
 who try to bring healing and hope
 in the face of the unchecked principalities and powers of violence.

We ask for sustaining courage for those who are suffering and traumatized.

We cry, *how long, O Lord?*

But the same words echo back, again and again
as if the question comes to us from You— *how long, how long, how long...*

In the wake of an event that should be impossible to contemplate
but which has become all too common in our experience,
open our eyes, break our hearts, and turn our hands to the movements of your
Spirit, that our anger and sorrow may unite in service to build a reign of peace,
where the lion and the lamb may dwell together, and terror no longer holds sway
over our common life.

In the name of Christ, our healer and our Light, we pray,

Amen.

***Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance***

Thanksgiving is a time to give,
a time to love,
and a time to reflect on the things that matter most in life.



NOVEMBER 2017



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1 Choir 7 PM 	2 Education Meeting 7 PM	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends Nathan Terry 	6	7 Election Day	8 No Evangelism Meeting John Burney & Shayne Flippin  Choir 7 PM 	9 Worship Meeting 7 PM	10 Veteran's Day Set Up for BBQ	11 Bethel BBQ Fall Festival 
12	13 Finance Meeting 7 PM Doris Alexander & Dorothy Bodkin 	14 Property Meeting 7 PM	15 Choir 7 PM 	16	17	18 Tracey Idol 
19 Natasha Nix 	20 Mission Meeting 7 PM	21	22 Fred & Betsy Ashworth  No Choir Practice	23  Happy Thanksgiving Mandy Smith 	24	25
26 Christ the King Communion Joshua Deal 	27	28	29 Paul & Kaki Brown  Choir 7 PM 	30 Jessica Deal 		

Mark Your Calendar

December

3-Hanging of the Greens
8-Golden Gang/Blue Ribbon

17-Christmas Cantata
24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service