

## *Bath Church Mouse*

Bath Presbyterian Church  
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### **From the Pastor's Desk**

A Blessed New Year to all the Bath Family and Friends!

Welcome to the new year! 2018 is full of new beginnings and exciting ministries at Bath Presbyterian Church! With the new year brings us a new season of Sunday school classes and new seasons of Mission projects to learn about and get involved in.

Also, new in 2018, we are beginning a Bath Church Youth/Kids group beginning on Sunday afternoons. The group will meet twice a month and rotate between service projects, Bible study and fun/fellowship activities. If you would like to help out with our youth program, or sponsor a youth as church mentor, please speak with Pastor Emily or a member of the CE committee.

The new year also brings a new class, with some new Elders. Since our Session will be undergoing training and installing of new Elders, it seems like a good time to refresh us all on some Presbyterian polity 101. A slate of candidates for Elder are created by the nominating committee (a sub-committee of Session to advise Session) with prayerful deliberation and Spirit-led discernment. The slate is approved by Session and a congregational meeting is called to present the slate. Church members are invited to nominate other members (with their approval) from the floor and a final slate is created and voted on by the congregation.

Being on Session is a difficult calling, as most of you have experienced! It is a huge undertaking to be responsible for church finances, policy changes, and basically all major decisions about

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anything that happens in our church! Our Elders need our support and encouragement. This does not mean members do not have the right to disagree with a Session decision. If there are church policies that you've prayerfully decided need to change, or new ministries or missions that you feel need implemented at Bath, we'd love to hear about it! Here's how:

- 1) **Write Session a letter for consideration.** Claim it proudly, put your name on it, offer suggestions and not just critique for Session.
- 2) **Join a committee.** Most new policies and programs are created at the committee level and just approved by Session, so this is the great creative place to brainstorm with others who have the same passions and callings as you. Committees meet less frequently than Session and require less commitment from their members, so it's a great place to get your Presbyterian feet wet! How do you join a committee? Tell your pastor of your interest, or ask any Elder to join their committee, they will gladly take you in!
- 3) **Consider serving on Session.** The nominating committee continues to struggle to complete the slate for our current Session. Even if you've had negative Session experiences in the past, don't feel you're up for the commitment, don't want the responsibility. Being on Session as a Presbyterian is a calling, not just a decision you make. Anything God calls us to, God equips us for in spite of us!

Being on Session sometimes is an exercise in blind faith. The church of Jesus Christ has a need and if you are the one being called to fill that need with your spiritual gifts, God will work out the details that are holding you back. Please talk to Pastor Emily or any member of Session if you're feeling the Spirit's stirrings in this direction. Session will always be the only way to truly affect policy and journey with the Holy Spirit's guidance as the church continues to move forward toward the vision of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Trust, that if you are being nudged by the Holy Spirit to be part of conversations of change in the church, then you are also being nudged to be part of the solution!

May all our New Year's resolutions be to more faithfully be the eyes, hands, mouthpiece and heart of our Awesome God!

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Emily

## **Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church**

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

### **Clerk's Corner**

Happy New Year from Session. May this year be filled with joy and continued friendship for our church.

Thank you to Jeff Whitaker for his service the past three years on session. Many new ideas were instituted thanks to Jeff and his dedication of looking forward. As he has said, he had a great teacher in Pastor Doris.

There are some safety concerns that Pastor Emily thought needed to be addressed by session. Since everyone has a church key, and this can create problems and safety concerns, session decided to have the entire church rekeyed, including the pastor study, and issue "do not duplicate" keys. The following positions will be issued a key: the six session elders (moderator of W.G. serves on session), the clerk, the pastor, the care taker, the treasurer, the choir director, and the media sign person. There will be a master key to be duplicated and kept in the fire proof safe. Each year the locks will be rekeyed, and new keys will be distributed. The pastor's study will only be available when the pastor is present.

Pastor Emily will lead a Youth Group twice a month with funds for the group used out of the Youth Group line item.

Every year the clerk receives a Clerk Questionnaire and a Statistical report that needs to be filled out and entered online. The clerk thanks session for their willingness to help with the clerk's questionnaire and the statistical report each year. Not all sessions are as joyful about completing the information.

Bath Church has a new mailing address. We have a post office box with Huber Heights postal service. The pastor and clerk have keys and will pick up the mail weekly. If you are sending things to the church our Post Office Box number is: 24156. City and zip code are the same as before.

Bank balances as of November 30th: Checking account - \$35,880.83;

CDs - \$70,155.42; Money Market - \$15,339.65; Vanguard Wellington - \$100,039.79;

Total monies - \$221,415.69

The 2017 nominating committee met prior to the December session meeting. The following is

the slate from the nominating committee for the Class of 2020: Susan Lockwood and Sharon Cottrill; the committee will continue to meet in the new year to find a person for the unexpired term in the Class of 2018.

There was a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 24th following morning worship for the purpose of electing two elders for the Class of 2020. Susan Lockwood and Sharon Cottrill were elected.

Session has elected Ethan Johns to serve as chair of the 2018 nominating committee and Susan Lockwood as the other session elder to serve on the nominating committee. The other three members of the nominating committee will be elected from the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

Sharon Cottrill will meet with the pastor and clerk following worship on January 7th for examination and training. Installation of the elder-elect will take place on January 14th during worship.

As a yearly requirement by the Presbytery, session reviewed the church membership roll. There were two families that the pastor will contact who do not attend regularly, or have not attended in over a year.

Gidget Collins  
Clerk of Session

## Property

A special thank you to all those who aided in purchasing and installing our new kitchen appliances! The appliances, purchased in part with Memorial Funds, will surely bless the wonderful social and fellowship gatherings of Bath for years to come!

Ethan Johns  
Property Session Elder

## Mission

I delivered 29 gifts to the two families at Greene County Children Services. They were very appreciative. Thank you to all who contributed to make two families that would not have had any gifts to being abundantly loved by Bath Church & Christ through your gifts.

Our next mission is the Souper Bowl. It will run January through February with all food items going to the Huber Height's Food pantry, F.I.S.H. More information will come after the 1st of the year.

Verna Drake  
Mission Session Elder

## Worship

Happy New Year! The Worship Committee hopes you enjoyed the Advent Season worship services. The special services including lighting of the Advent candles, seasonal dramas, candlelight service, hanging of the Christmons, and seasonal music were some of the highlights.

Worship in January starts the season "After the Birth of Christ". Each service will take us into 2018 enriching our faith of the coming of the Christ child. Sunday January 14 will have communion served.

As the chairperson for the Worship Committee, it has been my pleasure to serve on session on this committee. We hope you enjoyed our Sunday worships services, and please plan on more uplifting services for 2018 as the committee works to enrich our faith journey walking with Jesus Christ.

Peace of Christ be with You for 2018.  
The Worship Committee Members

## Human Trafficking

Last month we talked about physical condition & location where they stay. This month we will talk about working conditions.

1. Living with employer or on worksite.
2. Driven to & from work.
3. Multiple people living in a cramped space.
4. Unpaid or paid very little.
5. Inability to leave job.
6. Works excessively hours and/or cannot take breaks.
7. Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off.
8. Was recruited through false promises especially concerning the nature & conditions of work.

Remember that we are to be aware of our surroundings. If anything looks suspicious call this number & let them investigate. Hotline number is 1-888-3737-888.

Do your part to stop this problem.  
Watch and report.



## Women's Gathering

### **Samaritan Homeless Clinic Delivery**

We donated 22 hygiene kits and 184 new items: 72 hats, 85 pairs of gloves, 11 scarves and 16 pairs of socks. A new coat, blanket and boots and 5 bags of used warm clothing items were also given.

### **Clothes That Work Delivery**

We donated clothing items, including new purses, shoes, men's pants and scarves.

### **Goodwill**

Clothing and unsold flea market items were given.

### **Christmas Bazaars**

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

### **Donation to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation**

A \$330.00 check was given. This was from funds received as donations and "pink table" sales.

### **Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting from 10am-3pm**

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and work on homeless scarves and kits. At 2pm we will study Lesson #4 of our Bible study.

### **Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> 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  
JANUARY 2018

Epiphany  
I Am the Light of the World  
John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

1. What hidden things are made manifest with the light of Jesus?
2. What deeds and actions accompany those who follow Jesus, the light of the world?

# BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		Susan and Rick L.		Aaron S.		
<b>7</b> Annual Reports due to clerk Session prayer time Coffee and donuts Training elders-elect CE meeting	<b>8</b> W.G. meeting 10 - 3	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Omer L. Omer and Maudie L.	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Holy Communion and installation of elders-elect  Youth Group  Dianna W.	<b>15</b> Pam Byrd Craft Group – F.H. 6:00-9:30pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Sweet Communion Book Club	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>   Dan G.
<b>21</b>  Session Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Harris F.	<b>24</b> Mouse Input due - Noon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Val Quinn using Friendship Hall with Mission Group  Donna S.
<b>28</b> Annual Congregational Meeting  Youth Group	<b>29</b>  Madeline H.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
Sun						