

## *Bath Church Mouse*

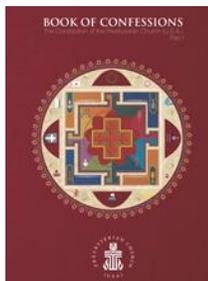
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May 2018

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

Grace and Peace to you, friends and members of Bath!

Each week during worship, we say together what it is that we believe. Why? The Presbyterian church's motto is Reformed and Always being Reformed. This means that the church views itself as a relevant presence in our modern world; changing and evolving as our culture changes to address God's people and their life today. However, this is also tempered by staying rooted in our heritage and our shared uniquely Reformed tenants of faith.



We have/will be using 4 PCUSA confessions in worship this year; The Apostles' Creed, The Confession of 1967, A Brief Statement of Faith and The Belhar Confession. They are dense, and we recite through them rather quickly, so here is some background on each of them to inform what we boldly claim in worship each Sunday (resourced from the Presbyterian Historical Society).

**Apostles' Creed** - This creed is not exclusively Presbyterian; it was originally Roman Catholic. It is our oldest creed, probably written around 390 AD. It was written by a Pope's council. It references many New Testament phrases.

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**The Confession of 1967** - In the late 1950s and early 1960s there was a great divide between the northern and southern Presbyterian Churches. Besides social divides, there were many church polity and policy divides between the Puritans who founded the northern churches and the Scots-Irish who founded the southern churches. This confession was written as one attempt toward reconciliation of the two churches. It was written in response and to reflect the Civil Rights era of its time. Commissioners to the 1967 General Assembly sang "Now Thank We All Our God" together after the vote to adopt the confession.

**A Brief Statement of Faith** - Now finally, the two churches have officially worked through their differences and merged into one PCUSA. The year is 1983 and the General Assembly feels a need to respond to this long sought-after merge with a confession of unified, shared beliefs. It is not intended to stand alone, apart from our other confessions; and it is not a detailed list of our beliefs. It was written to be used in worship and recited by the entire congregation.

**Belhar Confession** - Our most recently added confession by the General Assembly of 2016; although it was written in 1986. The focus of the confession is on unity, as a gift and obligation of the church; especially among various races of people. It is the first confession to claim

segregation and bigotry as sin. It was written to address the struggle with apartheid in South Africa. Its adoption made history as the first confession adopted that was written in the southern hemisphere. The commissioners sang "O Freedom" together when the motion to approve was overwhelmingly passed.

These are only 4 of our currently 12 confessions. I chose these four to represent our most traditional to our most current. The Presbyterian Historical Society and the

Presbyterian Mission Agency are great sources, if you'd like to do more study of our confessions on your own, Bath recently purchased a few copies of our most current Book of Confessions to reflect the latest editions. Feel free to borrow them for your own enjoyment. We are a fascinating church!!

Christ's Peace to you all,  
Pastor Emily

(Note: The Book of Confessions 2016 is also available as a free pdf download at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).)

## Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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### **Clerk's Corner**

Here are the highlights from the April session meeting:

Pastor Emily will serve the greater church through leading CE at Kirkmont Center June 24 – 30. She will not be taking a Sunday off and would be able to come back for any pastoral emergencies.

Bath Church was able to help another covenant church recently. Immanuel Korean Presbyterian Church lost their session Minute Book. We had an extra registry book that we were not using so we gave it to Immanuel Korean PC to use as a Minute Book, along with some minute book pages. The registry book came from another church that closed years ago.

Bank balances as of March 31st: Checking account - \$30,455.91; CDs - \$70,214.01; Money Market - \$15,343.18; Vanguard Wellington - \$99,764.21; Total monies - \$215,777.31

Verna gave the Commissioner report from the called Presbytery meeting on 27 March. The Presbytery approved a motion to concur with Overture 052, on establishing an Administrative Commission to address issues in the Synod of the Covenant, originated by the Presbytery of Cincinnati. This overture is now Item 05-03 assigned to the Committee on Mid-Councils. The concurrence did not include any additional rationale beyond that accompanying the Presbytery of Cincinnati overture. The presbytery also approved a motion authorizing our presbytery's Leadership Council to appoint an overture advocate to be sent to G.A.

Susan Lockwood will serve as the commissioner to the May 8th presbytery meeting which will be at Sugar Creek PC beginning at 3:00 pm. Although only the commissioner may vote at the meeting, anyone is allowed to attend.

Gidget Collins  
Clerk of Session

## Mission

Thank you to all that donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. We raised \$536.00. The Pentecost Offering will run through May 20th and is to support the youth of the world. We will retain 40% of this offering to use locally.

Catch the Building Spirit is our upcoming mission. There will be a panel build at Southminster on April 28 & 29th. The on-site kickoff of the new home being built on Shull will be May 26th and the build will run through Labor Day. No experience necessary if you want to help. See the poster in the narthex or talk with Janet or Verna if you have questions.

There will be a Mission Committee meeting May 6 after Coffee and Donuts. Discussion items include Operation Christmas Child, money Ella raised for missions and Rescue Me.

Verna Drake  
Mission Session Elder

## Fellowship

If April showers bring May flowers, there are going to be a lot of flowers! Some of them will be seen on Mother's Day when every mother and woman of the church will receive one. We will also celebrate with punch and cookies after worship. If you'd like to bring a picture of your mom, a display table will be set up in the gathering area.

Some of us, thanks to Janet, will be going to a ballgame on the 18th. Go, Dragons!

Susan Lockwood  
Fellowship Session Elder

## Worship

There are a couple of worship sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. 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. The second sign-up is 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.



**Ella as our Newest Lay Leader**

The Sunday bulletin production is a "work in progress" and I ask for everyone's patience whilst we sort this out.

Pentecost Sunday is on May 20th and we invite you to wear something red on that day. Holy Communion will be served during the service.



**Youth making Pentecost Banner  
Come and see it!**

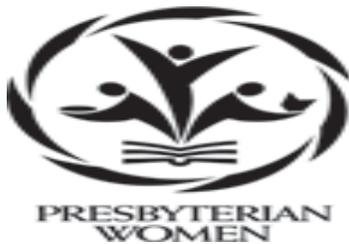
Hazel Pomfret  
Worship Session Leader

## Property

There will be a Spring Cleaning Day on May 5.



Sharon Cottrill  
Property Session Elder



## Women's Gathering

### MAY WOMEN'S GATHERING NEWS

#### Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> + 18<sup>th</sup> - Spring Bazaar

All sale proceeds from the Spring Bazaar plus donations were given to *Heifer, Inc.* The checks sent totaled \$440.00 and will provide 42 flocks of chickens.

#### April 9<sup>th</sup> deliveries

Clothing was given to *Clothes That Work*. Donated to *Samaritan Homeless Clinic*: 32 hygiene kits, 36 large toiletries and clothing. The clinic was very thankful for the kits because they had none left to give to the patients.

#### Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> - Activities, 10am-3pm

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and work on crafts and missions. At 2pm we will study Lesson #7 of our Bible study.

#### Mothers` Day Offering

On April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will receive donations for the "Healthy Women Healthy Families" offering, a PC (USA) program that helps families live healthier, more productive lives by providing services they need to protect and restore their health. Through our gifts to *HWHF*, women in many countries around the world are learning to grow and prepare nutritious foods, families are being protected from malaria, children are getting immunized, women are receiving prenatal care and education needs are provided.

There are forms to fill out to designate the women you wish honored or memorialized and special cards are available. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Mothers` Day, a bulletin insert will include the names of mothers and donors and these gifts will be dedicated.



### Older Adult Ministry (OAM) Certification

Chris Pomfret and Janet Miller attended two OAM certification classes at the Columbia Theological Seminary April 16-20, *Theological Reflections* and *Spiritual Formation*. They plan on sharing much of what they learned in various formats in the coming months. An example of the thought provoking material:

#### Sagehood

(Referring to our transformation as we move along life's journey to work out our identity in Christ)

→Can we imagine ourselves saying: For the benefit of who we are and what we may become, it is good to experience old age?←

# Bath Presbyterian Church

May 2018						
◀ Apr 2018						Jun 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 5:00 pm Worship Meeting  Judy Dan and Mabel	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>  Pam Byrd	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Val Quinn using F.H.  Spring Clean Up Day at Bath.
<b>6</b> Janet Miller-Older Adult Sunday Session Prayer time 10:30 Coffee and Donuts Mission Meeting  Installation of Ted Dennis at Eaton PC 4:00 pm	<b>7</b> W.G. 10-3	<b>8</b> Presbytery Meeting 3:00 pm at SugarCreek PC  Clyde	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Mother's Day	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Steve M.  Gidget	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Sweet Communion Book Club at Faith PC  7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bath Night Out at Dayton Dragons!	<b>19</b>  Carol
<b>20</b> Pentecost  Holy Communion  Session Meeting	<b>21</b> Pam Byrd craft group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice  Rob	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Catch the Building Spirit Blitz 8:30-3:30
<b>27</b> Trinity Sunday  Emily on vacation	<b>28</b> Memorial Day	<b>29</b> Catch the Building Spirit Blitz 8:30-3:30	<b>30</b> Catch the Building Spirit Blitz 8:30-3:30  7:00 pm Choir Practice  Brad and Deb	<b>31</b> Catch the Building Spirit Blitz 8:30-3:30		