



The Bethany Beacon

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Bethany Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Toth talk—red letter days & holidays

July Scriptures

- * 7/2—Psalm 13, Matt. 10:40-42
- * 7/9—Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Matt. 11:16-19
- * 7/16—Matt. 13:1-9, Matt. 13:18-23
- * 7/23—Matt. 13:24-30, Matt. 13:36-43
- * 7/30—Psalm 128, Matt. 13:31-33, 44-50

Prayer Requests

We are beginning a new prayer of the month cycle by praying for Bethany church leaders. See the back page for July and August Prayers of the Month.

Also remember:

- * Mardell Phillips
- * Robbie Henry
- * One another

It is that time of year when we think about taking some time off, get in a little relaxation and just enjoy life for a wee bit of time. Vacations and family times are planned and we look forward to a good time.

Back in the bad old days, before the labor laws were in effect, the only time off some workers received were their holidays -

“The **word holiday** comes from the Old English **word** hāligdæg (hālig "holy" + dæg "day").

The **word** originally referred only to special religious days” (from Wikipedia).

That’s right, holidays were holy days and those were the days workers got off to attend church and special services. Turns out so too were red letter days - “The term dates from old calendars in which "high days and holidays" (i.e. Holy Days) were marked in red. I believe that this practice was originally used in the First Book of Common Prayer (dating from 1549 with major contributions from Thomas Cran-

mer) in which every Sunday, Festival (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Whitsun etc.) and important Saint's day was marked in red.” (The Guardian.com).

Those dear friends were the days people got off from work, the original vacation time. The practice of giving time off from work for holy days was still partially true in 1964 (yes, we did have vacation by then) when my father was home from work on the afternoon of Good Friday in Anchorage Alaska and able to grab my sister out of her play pen when the earthquake hit.

Therefore, as we move through these summer months enjoying the great outdoors and one another let us remember to keep God as a part of our lives and look for the Lord’s actions in everything we do and see. Turns out Happy Holidays is just as appropriate in July as in December. Genesis 2:2 and Exodus 20:8-9 Have a great summer.



Rev. Linda Toth

Move to part-time clergy sparks innovation

Part 3

Pastor as team member, sharing the pastorate with other part-timers

When cash-strapped congregations do whatever it takes to retain a full-time pastor, they sometimes court a burnout situation. A disproportionate share of the budget -- and consequently, the ministry expectations -- land on one person who can become overworked and

unhappy. In such situations, switching to part-time clergy, where the pastorate is joyfully shared among multiple part-time staff, can be enlivening.

Clarendon Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Arlington, Virginia, for example, can afford a full-time pastor but has strategically opted not to do so. Before Clarendon made its pastorate

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Part-time pastor (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

part-time in 2012, burnout was a real problem. “Everything fell on the pastor’s shoulders, from running copies of Sunday morning bulletins to changing burned-out lightbulbs,” said the Rev. David Ensign. He said he told his board the model wasn’t helping the congregation, and “it was killing me.”

The solution: Ensign volunteered to go half time and let the savings go toward hiring a part-time administrative assistant. The change has renewed Ensign’s ministry by delivering less clerical work and more time for family, guitar and other creative pursuits. The arrangement has helped the congregants as well. The new staffer handles administrative issues related to rental units owned by the church, a job that congregants once had to do.

There are congregations considering this transition for missional reasons as opposed to economic ones.

With more time for what’s fun and meaningful, people like Ron Bookbinder are more engaged in the Clarendon ministries they care about, such as writing pastoral care letters and going on a mission trip to help flood victims in West Virginia. “The message I get from the change is that we can be open,” said Bookbinder, a ruling elder in the church. “We can do new things. We can focus on what we’re really good at. And we can explore -- try something

THERE ARE CONGREGATIONS CONSIDERING TRANSITION TO PART-TIME FOR MISSIONAL REASONS AS OPPOSED TO ECONOMIC ONES.

different.”

Other congregations are trying a similar approach. Since First United Methodist Church in Hudson, Massachusetts, went part time in 2015, 10 new members have joined, and lay-led classes are thriving.

With those successes and others, some hope the pastorate will become full-time again soon. But the Rev. Rosanne Roberts, a retiree on Medicare, said hiring another part-time employee to work with children and families would be better stewardship.

“As soon as it became clear that we would be ending the year in the black, someone on the finance team said, ‘Oh, great! We can move you up to three-quarters-time or back to full-time,’” Roberts said. “I said, ‘No! You’re forgetting it’s not just the salary.’” Having a full-time pastor would put the church on the hook for health insurance premiums, she pointed out. “And we’d be in trouble all over again.”

Willing and able laity

One key to all three models is the congregation. Motivated laypeople are instrumental to both the vision and the execution. From leading worship to pastoral care, their new roles are inextricably linked to their congregation’s destiny.

“In order to be successful, the laity have to be willing and able to do this,” said Morgan of the UCC’s Maine Conference. They’re proving they can step up, learn and lead. In the process, pastorates are becoming more distributed across entire congregations and less confined to one individual.

Bethany finances & repairs

The May financial report from Treasurer, Jean Oakes shows the following:

- * YTD Income—\$36,415
- * YTD Income Budget—\$33,659
- * YTD Expenses—\$31,001
- * YTD Expense Budget—\$32,846

Session thanks members and friends of Bethany for your continued faithful giving. Giving traditionally drops during the summer, so your continued pace of giving would be appreciated.

Repairs

Dave Henderson, chair of Building & Grounds, reports that Holcomb Construction has assessed the snow damages to our facility, and it appears that the cost to repair could be greater than the insurance company’s estimate. As soon as an itemized bid is in hand, it will be shared with Session to ponder.

There is no estimate on when Holcomb can do the work. They, as well as most other contractors in the valley, are solidly booked.

Session will communicate particulars with the congregation once they have been able to make decisions.

Bethany bulletin board

There will be no all-church garage sale this year, but if you have items you wish to store until the next one, Session has approved the use of the Hygiene Room for that purpose.

If you or someone you know wants to be put on our Prayer Chain, please contact Linda. You can still let Kathryn or Lois know, but they will clear it with Linda first. This procedure will ensure that we have full, accurate and appropriate information to send out.

Robbie Henry has been at St. Luke’s Rehab (Boise), but is hoping to be home the end of this week.

Mardell Phillips is still rehabilitating at Kindred Nursing & Rehabilitation, Weiser, Room 200 (change).

Amanda Kovach (Mike) were married on June 17. Congrat-

ulations to the happy couple.

Marilyn and Clint Rowe have reached a milestone and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jean Church, Elizabeth and David will be spending three weeks touring France, Germany and the British Isles in July. Prayers for safe travel for them.

You are invited to Carl & Gayle VW’s garage sale, July 21 (9-3:30 p.m.) and July 22 (6:30 p.m. anniversary dinner) at their tree property. Please RSVP for dinner by texting 208.739.8441 or on Facebook.



July/August calendar & birthdays

July

- July 1—Terry Warrington (b)
- July 3-8 - Linda away (can be reached by email, voice mail or text @ 208.739.6320). She and Steve have opportunity to visit David in Butte, MT.
- July 8—PW in the Trees @ 9:30 study followed by lunch
- July 11—Beth Magrini (b)
- July 14—Donald Oakes (b)
- July 16—Kathy Penne (b)
- July 18—Worship Committee
- July 19—Mariners at the Plaza (noon)
- July 21—Charles Oakes
- July 22—Ilea Jones

August

- August 2—Session @ 7:00 p.m.; Hunter Oakes (b)
- August 3-5—Linda out of town for Eastern OR
- August 8—Robert Bolyard (b)
- August 13—Jeanette Moore (b)
- August 16—Mariners @ the Plaza (noon)
- August 18—Bea Mitchell (b)
- August 19—Presbytery at King Hill
- August 21—Marilyn Blair Clausen (b)
- August 22—James Bolyard (b)
- August 23—Gayle Van Weerdhuizen (b)
- August 27—Cali Burzota (b)
- August 28-31—Linda out of town for Executive Forum

Attitude is gratitude

There was a woman who looked in the mirror and saw she had only three hairs so she said, “I think I’ll braid my hair today.”

The next day she saw she only had two hairs so she said, “I think I’ll part it down the middle.”

Next day she saw she only had one hair on her head and she said, “Wow! Today I get to wear my hair in a pony tail.”

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn’t a single hair on her head. “Thank God!” she exclaimed. “I was running out of things to do with my hair!”

Attitude is everything! Let’s be grateful, recognize what we’ve been given and enjoy life instead of merely enduring it.



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Love, forgive, grow.

PRAYERS OF THE MONTH
JULY: ELDER JOYA HILL & DEACON
MARILYN BLAIR-CLAUSEN
AUGUST: ELDER CONRAD ANDER-
SON & DEACON BILL CLAUSEN

Just a few words

Dear Hearts:

Ah, at last summer is upon us. June's version of summer at least, and June in Weiser is National Old-time Fiddle Contest or, in true Presbyterian fashion, NOTFC.

Every year Kathryn and I get tagged to volunteer as ticket takers/door keepers. We always get the day that Senior Citizens get in free (the reason here should be obvious) and we do enjoy jollyng the old guys along. People are so amusing, and it would seem older gentlemen are at their most amusing. They come in and see the two of use in our golf clothes with the aura of our early morning round still causing us to glow, and they assume we are young chicks just waiting to help them. Their pick-up lines haven't changed since 1930, nor has their coyness when we ask, gently, if they might be over 60, because if they are, they get in free. They know we know they are over 60 and then some and we know they know we know. However, we all play the game of life admirably. We drop the everyday masks of aloofness, or self-pity, or whatever masks we may

wear to get through the day unharmed. It seems it is only when we can put aside our protective persona and become the person we really are that we can enjoy the pleasures of life and other people's presence in that life.

It would seem that our gracious God not only created us to know God and enjoy God our whole life long, we are also able to enjoy other people as well. What a God we serve...thinks of everything.

In Christ's Love,

Joey



Evelyn Upton, Queen for a Day @ NOTFC Parade