



JUNE 2017

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The Bethany Beacon

Toth Talk

The sign on the door reads, “Pastors Study”. It is an office with a desk and shelves, some full of books others waiting expectantly for something to showcase. There are a few books that might seem out of place in a pastor’s office and some toys and gadgets peek out around books at anyone who comes to visit. Most of the time it is very quiet in this room. The books and the toys and I do not get a lot of visitors.

There are a few meetings held in the office. After all it really is the church’s office not mine. We plan for the worship and the ministry of the congregation. But we don’t really do ministry in the office any more than sermon preparation is doing ministry. Think of it more as preparing to do ministry.

But, that is enough rambling. Did you catch it? Go back and re-read the first sentence. Honestly, I had to take a second look, it’s plural on the

door. Pastors?? Maybe it is trying to tell us something. So, drop by any time, there is plenty of work to be done and I’ll even share the desk.

Rev. Linda Joth



Move to part-time clergy sparks innovation

Part 2

Pastor as equipper of laypeople, not provider of services

With part-time ministries, denominational leaders see a common problem. The pastor has diminished capacity for ministry, and parishioners don’t pick up the slack. Much of what the church once had to offer gets lost or hollowed out. Vital churches, however, head off this problem by rethinking the pastor’s role. She or he becomes less a provider of religious services and more an equipper of laypeople to perform duties that had previously fallen to clergy.

At St. Columba’s Church in Kent, Washington, for example, average Sunday attendance has grown 44 percent (from 55 to 79) since its pas-

torate went part time in 2014. New ministries to raise vegetables for the hungry and shelter homeless men have taken off since then, parishioners say, in part because part-time vicar the Rev. Alisabeth Newton doesn’t try to “run the show.”

“What I found,” said Micah Kurtz, a young father who used to attend a nearby megachurch, “was an openness to let people own things and say, ‘Hey, why don’t we try this? It might meet your skills. Give it a shot.’” Kurtz is now an active member at St. Columba’s, where he oversees the Just Garden ministry.

Sometimes laypeople have gifts just waiting for an outlet ~ and for permission to use them. At Christ Church in Bethel, Vermont, 10 of the 20

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June Scriptures

June 4 (Pentecost Sunday) – Acts 2:1-21

June 11 (Trinity Sunday) - Matt. 28:16-20

June 18—Matt. 9:35-10:8 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

June 25—Matt. 10:24-39 and Psalm 86:1-10

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T E A M o g e t h e r E v e r y o n e A c h i e v e s M o r e

Sometimes new experiments require letting go of what has been expected duties and trying out new types of outreach.

Move to part time clergy (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

members of the congregation take turns preaching. That lightens the load for their volunteer priest, the Rev. Shelie Richardson, who works full time as an insurance agent and preaches just a few times a year.

Not every church has such a stable of talent ready to go, but some congregations are addressing this by making the part-time pastorate into a trainer's role. This works especially well in a three-quarters-time arrangement, where the pastor can satisfy some congregational needs and still have time to train laity to do parts of his or her job.

Pastor as ambassador through strategic use of time

A second type of challenge arises when churches cut clergy hours back to part-time and then fall, sometimes unwittingly, into an insular chaplaincy situation. Pastors spend the little time they have leading Sunday worship and visiting the sick, so that they're left with no time for anything else.

"But what we know for vital congregations ~ those that are having an impact on their communities, are growing and have increased access to resources ~ is that a pastor needs to be doing less visiting and more leading and engagement externally with their local community," said the

Rev. Sara Anderson of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Some congregations have avoided the chaplaincy model by counterintuitively revamping the part-time pastorate to make sure it includes *more* time, not less, for community engagement.

Mainline churches often get the part-time model wrong. "They think of it like, "We can have a 15-hour-a-week pastor, because it will take 15 hours to do all the things we want the pastor to do." However, the *church* should do those things and let the pastor do something to bring in new people to the church, however that is going to work.

Sometimes, new experiments require letting go of what had been expected duties. Unlike her full-time predecessors, the Rev. Linda Brewster of Tuttle Road United Methodist Church in Cumberland, Maine, doesn't attend committee meetings. And once a month, laypeople take over preaching. With that carved-out time, Brewster, who works full time as a nurse practitioner, tries new types of outreach. Overall, the approach is working. Average Sunday attendance at Tuttle Road has doubled, from 30 to 60, since the church went part time three years ago.

Next month: "Pastor as team member" and "Willing and able laity"

Presbytery meets at Kirkpatrick, Parma

Joey Mills, Kathryn Baker, Marilyn Blair-Clausen and Jean Oakes attended Presbytery on May 6. The day began with worship and Stated Clerk, Dick Green, preaching from Ephesians 3:14-21, focusing on the Trinity. Dick pointed out that the Trinity is not in the Bible, but describes what people saw in Scripture. He described the Trinity this way:

Father – God for us;
Son – God with us;
Spirit – God in us.

Agenda items included:

- Report from the Stated Clerk including the 2016 Statistical Report for membership in the Presbytery: Beginning Total (1/2016) 1,323; Ending Total (12/2016) 1,291, for a loss of 32 members. All congregations in the Presbytery submitted a statistical report.
- The congregational session minutes were read. Bethany's were approved with exceptions. (Thanks Joya!)

- Bethany is represented by 2 ruling elders to each meeting of the Presbytery.
- The Boone Memorial Administrative Commission was dismissed with thanks. Marilyn Blair-Clausen served on the Commission.

The Presbytery approved:

- Boone Presbyterian and Bright Start Day Care Center will sign a facility lease for two years (renewable).
- Southminster was authorized to apply to the Synod of the Pacific for a Line of Credit loan for up to \$1 million for construction to reconfigure their space. Presbytery will guarantee the loan. The application is unique in that the congregation has built in and designated a portion of the ultimate construction cost to mission.

Lunch was delicious and unique. It was prepared by the Kirkpatrick men.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Bethany will receive a Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering on June 11. Proceeds join with offerings from around the country, and will be divided between three projects:

The Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties, SC



In June of 2007, disturbed by the high incidence of criminal domestic violence occurring in the local area and state, five local citizens formed the 501 (c) (3) non-

profit organization that was to become the Family Justice Center, a unique collaboration of community partners and agencies working together to provide a safe and welcoming environment for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. This model has been identified as a best practice in the field of criminal domestic violence intervention and prevention services. After three years of building community support, and through the generosity of Dr. Jerry Crosby, the Family Justice Center secured a facility in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina. With this acquisition, the long-held vision was finally realized with donations of time, labor and materials pouring in. Finally, in January 2011, very quietly and with no fanfare, the doors were opened and people started showing up for help and services; they haven't stopped yet. Proceeds from the Birthday Offering Grant will be used to build a new, larger domestic violence shelter.



First Hand Aid—Cuba

Many people ask if Cuba still needs our help, since some barriers are coming down between Cuba and the United States. The answer is an emphatic 'Yes.' The Cu-

ban people need aid as much as ever.

Cuba is an island nation about the size of Florida, and about 11 million people live there. Over 3 million people live in the city of Havana and another third or so live in three of the other largest cities in Cuba. Rural areas are scattered with small towns and villages, but much of the land is not occupied.

Before 1960, Cuba was prosperous for many. Agriculture thrived, with popular exports of rum, tobacco, sugar and fruit. Called 'The Pearl of the Caribbean,' tourism was at an all-time high. In stark contrast, life in rural Cuba was difficult and poor at best.

Cuba continues to live under a communist/socialist government now under the power of Raul Castro, brother of Fidel. Nothing has really changed in 56 years. And the boost provided by the recent changes, including travel to Cuba, has not reached the people. The benefits are being enjoyed by a few. In fact, many resources are scarcer than ever because most of them are going to the tourist industry.

First Hand Aid Rural Clinic Development Initiative is designed to establish six medical clinics in partnership with and located at Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba that will provide medicine and care in those rural, underserved communities.

Navajo Water Project

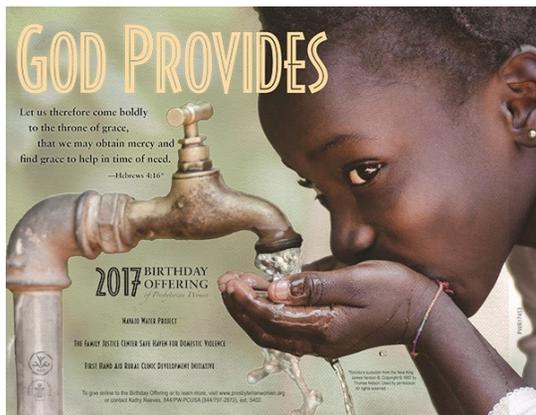
Navajo are 67 times more likely than other Americans to live without running water or a toilet. Many Natives can't get enough clean water creating a cycle of poverty that limits health, happiness, educational opportunity and economic security. The Navajo Water project will eventually provide safe water systems to 205 families at the Smith Lake Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

Bethany viewed "The Navajo Water Lady" as a Minute for



Mission on May 21. "Water Lady" Darlene Arviso (left) was given the New Mexico State Senate Appreciation Award for her hard work and dedication. You can view the video on You Tube (type

in "The Navajo Water Lady").



Navajo Nation

Population in 2010—

174,000

Families without

Running Water—40%

Poverty Rate for

Children—44%

We are not dying. We are Reforming

Total PC(USA) membership at the end of 2016 stood at 1,482,767, a loss of 89,893 members.

The number of congregations declined by 191 to 9,451, but the number dismissed to other denominations declined by only 99.

The total number of ministers declined by 356 to 19,721. The total number of ordinations declined by 34 to 215.

And the number of candidates for ordained ministry increased by 21 to 653.



By: Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

We are moving towards a new future as a denomination. Membership loss, which was experienced since the 1970s, is slowing down. Congregations are refocusing on their mission. Mid councils are experimenting with ways to provide meaningful leadership in challenging times. Congregations are celebrating both anniversaries and new beginnings. Young adults are asserting their desires to serve in both domestic and international mission. Despite cries proclaiming the death of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we remain a viable interfaith and ecumenical partner in many local communities while proclaiming a prophetic witness throughout the world. Our eulogy as a denomination has been written too soon, because God's Kingdom has not yet come. We are engaged both in the United States and around the globe. We are well-respected for our priestly and prophetic voice within Christendom. Our challenge is to see the powerful opportunities that are before us while declaring with Holy Spirit boldness that God is doing amazing work within us right now.

We have much more than we recognize. It is my hope that initially we will make bold moves to embrace the communal nature of our theology and practice. I want to encourage mid councils to implement strategies to move congregations categorized as "Fellowships" to the status of chartered congregations, particularly when they have met membership requirements to charter. Many racial ethnic immigrant congregations are classified as "Fellowships." These congregations are participating in the PC(USA), but are not fully brokered into the membership of the denomination. They are

not required, in most instances, to pay per capita, while remaining non-voting members of presbyteries. This "half-in/half-out" status creates a perceived, racially motivated compromise that limits full participation even when many of these congregations outnumber by large margins long-term member congregations. My international travel offers clarity related to the new evangelism field of immigrants that know well the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We should embrace these immigrants with a sense of kinship while recognizing their long-term familiarity and association with our missionary work. Immigrants are not strangers. Therefore, we must not categorize immigrants as such through existing membership double standards. They are Presbyterians and should be accepted and embraced as we do all Presbyterians. This effort alone could demonstrate our intentionality towards fulfilling our failed commitment to increase racial ethnic participation 20 percent by 2010.

God through Jesus Christ awaits our commitment. As we are challenged to become a more racially diverse denomination in order to grow into the future, it is imperative that we invite new immigrants into our congregations as members; connect with those who benefited from our ministry partnerships across the globe; hear the voices of our youth and young adults regarding their vision for the future of the church; train a new generation of leaders; and creatively engage in inviting people to a transformative experience in our worship and mission. Take the risk of asking those persons in your midst (both members and nonmembers) the question Jesus ask Bartimaeus "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mk. 10: 51). This question has power when offered in love. I pray that a move of the Spirit will come over us in this new period of reform. Claiming persons to both experience the joy of fellowship and the faith within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

This is Rev. Nelson's response to the statistics seen on the left.

Letterbox

Your prayers, loving calls and visits have meant a lot as we struggle through this difficult time. Our faith in God and the loving support of our church friends will make it possible. Thank you.

Jeanette Moore and Family



Bethany bulletin board

James Bolyard was awarded a certificate for Perfect Attendance in the second grade.

Jenna Bolyard was named “Super Reader” in her fourth grade class.

Madi Booth has been selected as an alternate for the National Flute Association’s Masterclass Performers Competition. If she is asked to play, she will perform in one of the master classes at the NFA Convention in Minneapolis this summer.

Please keep the Moore family in prayer in sympathy for the loss of Matt (Jeanette’s grandson and Nancy and Conrad’s nephew).

It is with sadness we learned of the passing of our dear friend, Norma Ruth. Please remember her daughters Mike and Pat in prayer. If you need an address for sympathy cards, let Kathryn know.

Mardell Phillips had back surgery on May 17. Pray that her healing will progress well. She is convalesc-

ing at Kindred Nursing and Rehabilitation, 331 E. Park, Rm. 202, Weiser, ID.

Jeff Kovach is graduating from Pendleton High School and plans to enter community college in the fall.

David Peterson has received good news that his foot his healing well.

The New Hope Kitchen is needing volunteers, Monday-Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The meal site needs help with cooking, serving and cleaning up. For more information contact Shilo Harnden at 541-889-1905.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery is holding a Fall Retreat at Nazareth Center in Boise, October 6-8, 4:00 p.m. on Friday through Noon on Sunday. Fee for one person per room is \$135; two people per room is \$100 each and includes lodging, and meals. There will be three speakers representing the Jewish, Muslim and Christian religions. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex.

“It’s not about me being right and you being wrong, it’s about me telling you why I believe.”

*–Linda Toth,
5/14/2017*

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Coffee available each Sunday				1	2	3 9:30 PW Mark VW (b)
4 9:00 Rehearsal 10:00 Worship PENTECOST	5	6	7 7:00 Session	8	9	10
11 9:00 Rehearsal 10:00 Worship TRINITY SUN. BIRTHDAY OFFERING	12	13 Mary Lou Feasel (b)	14 8 a.m. Food Pantry Board	15	16	17 Steve Toth (b)
18 9:00 Rehearsal 10:00 Worship FATHERS’ DAY	19	20 3:00 Worship Committee	21 Noon—Mariners	22	23 Kathryn Baker (b)	24
25 9:00 Rehearsal 10:00 Worship	26	27 Joey Mills (b)	28	29	30	



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Love, forgive, grow.



Just a few words...

Dear Hearts:

Kathryn and I recently took a road trip...that, in itself, is not unusual, but we had a Synod of the Pacific meeting in Sacramento and we turned it into a road trip to San Francisco where one of Kathryn's cousins lives. When my children were young and we lived in California every year we took their horses to the Junior Cow Palace in San Francisco and I thought nothing of pulling a gooseneck horse trailer with our flatbed crew cab pick-up. After all, I learned to drive in California so those crazies didn't scare me; but then I was in my late twenties and pretty scary myself. Now I am an adult and the thought of trying to get over the bay and across town to where Kathryn's cousin lives was scaring the bejeebers out of me just thinking about it. However...we have a GPS named Irene the Irritant and she was wonderful.

In due time we were back in Sacramento and our Linda arrived, and we all fulfilled our duties and headed back toward home, with a stop in Reno at one of their Costco warehouses. After shopping, we needed lunch, and now the question was where? Actually the question was how many Presbyterians with GPS in

hand does it take to find a Red Robin?

Linda's GPS told her there was a Red Robin in the vicinity. Fine, except we were in a shopping center bigger than Weiser itself. So, with Linda in her car, using her GPS and Kathryn and

I in my car with Irene we began our search. Aannddd...we were lost. We found each other, started again and eventually found our target just across the road from our starting point, Costco. We ate, we left, we headed for Winnemucca secure in our knowledge that we did know the way home.

That night over snacks we amused ourselves wondering just how many GPS' did it take to find our way. Seems it turned out it depends on the GPS you choose to put your faith in.

Jesus came to show us the way to God and all we have to do is follow as he leads the way. Just be willing to follow where Jesus leads...

In Christ's Love,

Joey

