



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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March 2020

# The Bethany Beacon

## Toth talk—a Lenten study

### March scriptures

- 3/1—Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11
- 3/9—John 3:1-17; Rom. 4:1-5; 13-17
- 3/15—John 4:5-42; Rom. 5:1-11
- 3/22—Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- 3/29—Ezek. 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

### March liturgists

- Gayle Van Weerdhuizen
- Carl Van Weerdhuizen
- Ray Burzota

"Lent comes from an old English word for springtime. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith through prayer, spiritual discipline and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ. (*An excerpt from the Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer*, pg. 159)

This year for Lent as a congregation we will have a four-week study on who we are, whose we are, and what does that mean for our lives of faith. The study grew out of the Mission Committee's request for a Bible study on the topic of dismantling structural racism, one of the three foci of the Matthew 25 initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As I was putting the study together, it became clear to me that the study was not so

much about structural racism, but rather that each topic has valuable lessons to teach us about ourselves and how we participate in society; including how to recognize structural racism.

Please plan on joining me on the four Thursdays in March. You can bring a lunch and come at noon each Thursday or you are welcome to join with me at 7:00 p.m. for those of you who are busy at noon. What follows is a quick topical overview.

**Thursday, March 5**, 12 p.m. (bring a lunch) and 7 p.m.—Imago Dei (made in the image of God)

**Thursday, March 12**, 12 p.m. (bring a lunch) and 7 p.m. Paperclips (our place in society)

**Thursday, March 19**, 12 p.m. (bring a lunch) and 7 p.m. Confession of Belhar (reformed response to apartheid)

**Thursday, March 26**, 12 p.m. (bring a lunch) and 7 p.m. Beloved Community (what do we, Bethany PC and individuals as Christians, do here in our corner of the world?)

Linda

## Serve Day is April 25



Serve Day, April 25, is an opportunity for individuals and groups to reach out in a hands-on way throughout our community. Bethany is offering sign-ups beginning on March 8 and running through April 5. Sign-up sheets will be available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Volunteers can be children or adults, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

To find opportunities or projects, which meet your energy level, contact Evelyn Dame at [evelynsdame2000@gmail.com](mailto:evelynsdame2000@gmail.com). Let's see if Bethany can be represented by a few people or a team.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Bethany will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing again this year. Mission interpretation will begin March 15 and follow through Easter Sunday, the day the offering is received.

This year, Bethany will sponsor a Fishing Derby with Gracie the fish (remember her?). Fish banks will be handed out, and we have new colored markers which are much more Gracie-friendly. Fish will be judged (categories and rules announced soon) and prizes handed out the Sunday after Easter, so plan to participate.

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## Thank you from First Presbyterian, Homedale

Ben and I and all the folks at Homedale Presbyterian thank you a thousand times for helping financially send our kids to camp. Without being asked, you gave. God bless!

**Janet McCornack**

Dear Bethany,

Sawtooth.

Thank you so much for donating to camp

Sincerely,

Vanessa Canterbury

Dear Bethany thank you for donating money to Camp we are very thankful for the money sincerely Piege

Dear Bethany

Thank you for donating to Camp Sawtooth. We are all thankful for you doing that.

Sincerely - Emma Cunningham

Dear Bethany

Thank you for donating money for us to go to Camp Sawtooth I really appreciate it.

Sincerely: Alisha C.



Dear Bethany

Thank you for donating to Camp Sawtooth we were so happy that we got to go. I was so scared when we got there but after a few days I didn't want to leave.

Sincerely,  
Aireal

Dear Bethany,

Thank you for donating the money for the church camp that was very thankful of you donating the money Thank you for doing that I am really happy because you did that.

-Sincerely

Alyssa  
Statford

Thank you for donating to the camp.

We all appreciate your gratitude and dedication to share your fundings towards camp. - Marcus White

## Subject to change

**Our intrepid traveler, Kathy Penne, shares her latest adventure.**

On December 27, 2019, my former college roommate, Lynette, and I met in Seattle for her bucket list cruise/land tour of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia. She even purchased us round trip business class seats for our 15.5 hour flight from San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand.

Arriving at 5:30 a.m. December 29, we checked into our hotel. While they prepared our room we walked across the boulevard for black and white coffee and a breakfast roll. After offloading our suitcases, we caught a cab to see the animals of Australia and New Zealand at the Auckland Zoo. Temperature: upper 90s. I looked into the eyes of a hostile looking tuatara (a large dinosaur-like lizard) and saw the kea (mountain parrot), takata and whia and other native birds. When Lynette didn't see me enter the dark kiwi house to view the kiwi, the nocturnal symbol of New Zealand, she returned to the motel. I toured the rest of the 109° zoo alone.

The following morning we rode to the top of the Sky Tower, the 6<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the world, to get an overview of Auckland. A gray fog encased the valley. Sydney's smoke had finally arrived in New Zealand. Putting our luggage in storage, we took a taxi to the Auckland Museum to see treasures from the Maori and Pacific Tongan people and watch Maori dancers. I toured the Volcano Gallery where I copied this quote, "Civilization exists by geographical consent, subject to change without notice."

Change without notice summed up the next 3.5 weeks. In Tauranga, our scheduled tour was bubbling volcanic pools and a native village but became a glow worm tour instead. The owner/bus driver/guide misread our reservation. What is a glow worm? An ant-like cave-dwelling insect that secretes strings of a sticky substance that glows in the dark to catch prey. Beautiful if you can get beyond the fact it is sticky bug spit.

At Picton we visited Metuara Wildlife Island. I learned there are no native mammals in New Zealand, only birds, large lizards, and the world's largest beetle.

We missed Akaura. After exiting Cook's

Strait and entering the Tasman Sea, it was too rough to tender into port. Nor did we have the scenic cruise through Fiordland National Park. The captain headed north. we spent 4 days on a rocking, rolling ship sailing through 10 meter swells (33 feet) with 60 knot (70 m.p.h.) winds, dodging "slippery when wet" cones in 1" water on the pool deck for breakfast and lunch. Neither pools nor spas were emptied, but sloshed until empty.

We had a 12<sup>th</sup> floor room with a balcony but could not use it. Waves washed over the balcony and beat against our sliding glass doors. Fortunately I don't get sea sick, but spent my days lurching like a drunken sailor around the ship.

Many asked, did you see the fires of Sydney. No, only smelled the smoke as we began the Australian Interior portion of our tour. Ayers Rock was amazing but the walk in 117° heat was daunting, made worse by my slow walking speed as I clutched my warm water bottle. By the time I got to a stop, the group was leaving. Lynette passed on the walk.

We stopped to tour an old Telegraph station outside Alice Springs but I couldn't face the shade less walk. I sat under the 107° canopy outside the café.

We didn't have a scenic drive through a rainforest nor ride a sky rail across its canopy thanks to the previous day's cyclone in Darwin. Our 10 am flight didn't arrive until 11 pm. We went to a Museum but after 20 minutes were sent down to the café. No electricity due to the post cyclone's torrential rain, lightening, and crashing thunder. After waiting 1½ hours for our bus, we toured a soggy crocodile farm (raised for meat and leather) and mini-zoo.

At 11:00 pm we caught our plane to Darwin (100° and 90% humidity upon arrival) to see the Great Barrier Reef by mini subs or glass bottom boat. Neither was available. The sea was too rough. Thanks to my unsteady walk, I wasn't allowed to go to the pontoon so I didn't see the reef, only high waves hitting a rocking boat. I learned later the pontoon had a glass bottom.

My entire trip was "geography, subject to change." Would I go on another adventure, knowing I am considered by many to be too old? You bet! "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list." (Susan Sorlog)



Auckland NZ smoky from Australian fires



Alice Springs (117 degrees)



Ayers Rock



## Bethany bulletin board



Alice Armstrong



Update on Mariah Skelly (Kathy Penne) and her wrestling career. Mariah has been invited to join an elite group of high school girl wrestlers. She is one of five chosen from across the State of Idaho. This past season, Mariah competed in 3 tournaments finishing the year 14/7. Congratulations!

Please continue to pray for Dennis Ross as he mourns the loss of Laurel. Dennis thanks Bethany folk for their prayers and cards.

Many folk have had the flu recently, among them Lois Legg's son, Danny. He is now recovering at home after a short time at St. Luke's.

Continue prayer for Jean Church and her family as she helps her mother and father transition to hospice and meals on wheels.

Ileana Oakes fell breaking her hip in January. She spent a few (very few) weeks at Pioneer Place in Vale. Gratefully, she and Donald (who spent time in the hospital in January) are both home and receiving 24-hour assistance.

Marilyn Blair-Clausen gave the editor permission to share one of life's little adventures, which happened to her Sunday, the 16th. "Did you hear the one about the Deacon who used liquid dish soap in the dishwasher? Bubbles ensued!!! Yes, I read the bottle, but the comprehension didn't kick in until it was too late. I even said to myself, 'When did we switch to liquid dishwasher soap?'

I have mopped up lots of bubbles, but didn't want to spend all afternoon at church. So if anyone goes into the kitchen, please check the dishwasher. We may have to run it again with no soap to make sure the soap is off the dishes."

You can ask Joey Mills about her Sunday, the 16th. It seems something was in the air that day. (See cartoon on left for a clue)

Beta Sigma Phi recently honored one member from each chapter as their Sweetheart of the Year. The annual honor goes to a chapter member who has gone above and beyond expectations in dedicating time to their group and in the community. Delta Omicron chapter named Alice Armstrong (photo left) to receive the honor. Alice commented that she loves the togetherness the group shares, adding "It is a real honor that I wasn't expecting being so new to the group." Congratulations, Alice.

A note from Chenoa Stock regarding the *Beacon*: *Thank you for these, Kathryn! I'm sorry I do not respond to each one, but I do read them. I enjoyed Joey's piece about the banana [January]. I heard that news as well and thought it was ridiculous. There was also something about somebody actually eating the banana before it was auctioned, or something to that effect. The art world is a funny world it would seem.*



### Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Boise

2020 Spring Gathering  
Saturday, March 21

First Presbyterian Church  
950 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702  
Co-Hosted by Kirkpatrick Memorial Community Church

Featured Speaker:  
**Rev. Dr. Ruth Hicks**  
Visitation Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Boise  
**"Who is Your Mary or Martha?"**

#### Schedule of Events

- 9:30 AM - Registration/Coffee Hour
- 10:00 AM - Welcome/Devotions/Scripture - Moderator Priscilla Oja
- 10:20 AM - Business Meeting
- 11:00 AM - Break
- 11:15 AM - Mission Presentations: Rev. Dr. Ruth Hicks
- 12:30 PM - Lunch (\$7.00) & Adjournment

## Presbytery, Session and Deacon notes

Joey Mills, Kathryn Baker, Joya Hill, Suzanne Bolyard and Marilyn Blair-Clausen attended the meeting of the Presbytery on February 1. The Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery. Two women were commissioned to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elders—Joey Goode (Weiser) and Liz Leonardson (Southminster). An Administrative Commission was formed to assist the Emmett church through "next steps."

Session expresses thanks to all who have been able to give their own 2020 per capita.

John Armstrong and David Henderson continue their research toward a

defibrillator to have on the church property. They will come to the April meeting of session with a proposal.

The Deacons have agreed to continue the Home Touch letters and will pick up the cost (approximately \$322 per year for subscription and postage) from the Deacon's Budget. Paper and copying will come from the office line in the church budget.



## News from the food pantry

By Marilyn Rowe

The Next Chapter Food Pantry and Garden sends a huge thank you to Bethany members and friends for supporting the pantry cause by purchasing bowl and soup tickets for the annual Soup'r Bowl Fundraiser. We hope those who participated will enjoy going out for a soup meal. If you have not redeemed your coupon yet, you may still do so until Wednesday, February 26.



A bit of what I think is an interesting history of the pantry Soup'r Bowl Fundraiser:

Nine years ago, the pantry Board of Directors were discussing means to raise funds to help mostly with operating expenses, but some for food purchases as well. Board chair, Nora Bean's neighbors, Roger and Carol Tolman, were the owners of Malheur Drug in Vale. They carried a line of bowls, which were made in Japan, and they thought they could give us a good price from their supplier in Seattle. With that idea, we devised the plan to include tickets to local restaurants who agreed to participate. Originally, the plan was to take a purchased bowl to a participating restaurant for a bowl of soup, but because the restaurants "frowned on that idea" the plans changed, and the bowls became a bonus. Only a ticket was required to claim the free bowl of soup.

The Board secured sponsorship from local businesses and private donations to acquire the bowls, and were then able to use all profits from sales for the benefit of the pantry. Several years ago, the Tolmans retired, so the Board took on the ordering of the bowls. Since those have to be delivered to a commercial business, Kinney and Keele True Value Hardware agreed to receive bowl shipments. The Soup'r Bowl has become the pantry's largest fundraiser as we work to remain as independent as possible.

Now to complete the circle. While visiting with Bethany's Beverly Stubbs during a church potluck, I learned that Roger and Carol Tolman are her son and daughter-in law!! I was amazed, and once again I felt the connection, as many do, amongst the communities which surround us. Another connection came as I ordered bowls from a woman in Seattle who is our bowl supplier. She is a close friend of the Tolmans, and on the very day in early December when I called her to order the bowls for this year's fundraiser, she had just received the Tolmans Christmas card. (The Tolmans were responsible for connecting the pantry board to her.)

It seems that what goes around, comes around. Everyone is appreciated for their support and help. We couldn't have been performing this service for fourteen years without all these connections and assistance.

# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rehearsal 10 am Worship Coffee	2	3 3:30 Deacons	4 7:00 Session	5 Noon and 7 pm Study with Linda	6	7 9:30 PW <b>TURN CLOCKS BACK</b>
8 <b>DAYLIGHT TIME ENDS</b> Rehearsal 10 am Worship Coffee	9 Dave Henderson (b)	10	11	12 Noon and 7 pm Study with Linda Jamie Hill (b)	13 Linda Toth (b)	14
15 Rehearsal 10 am Worship Coffee Tim Grim (b)	16	17 Alice Armstrong (b) Ayden Peterson (b)	18 Noon—Mariners 1:30 Mission Comm. 2:30 Worship Comm.	19 Noon and 7 pm Study with Linda Ray Burzota (b)	20	21 9:30 PW Presby- tery @ Boise Ist Bill Clausen (b)
22 Rehearsal 10 am Worship Coffee	23	24 Carl VW (b)	25	26 Noon and 7 pm Study with Linda	27	28
29 Rehearsal 10 am Worship Coffee	30	31	APRIL 1 7:00 Session			APRIL 4 9:30 PW

## BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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Love, forgive, grow.



## Prayer of the month: Redwoods Presbytery

### Just a few words...

Dear Hearts:

I witnessed an incident at the local grocery store a few weeks back and have spent much thought on what happened and what should I have done, and more so, how should I have done it. I was in the checkout line behind a man of Hispanic origin, clean and clothed like a worker in the field. His purchases included staples such as a gallon of milk, bread, some canned goods etc., and came to \$40 plus change. He had what seemed to be a pre-loaded debit card, and it only contained around a dollar plus some change. The checker was kind and tried to explain to him he didn't have enough for his purchase, but he seemed to have difficulty understanding that the card was not funded anymore. I knew the total amount needed and wanted very much to have that amount added to my own purchases, but here comes the sticker...how do I do this without humiliating this older man? I couldn't see a way to get the checker's attention and signal that I would pay it forward, nor could I see anyone in a position to do this for me. The young checker was beginning to get anxious with a line forming behind me. She wanted the man to go to Customer Service and talk to them. Now this struck me funny because his purchases were bagged as she nullified the tape so he loaded them into his cart. But as I left I saw him at the Customer Service desk.

There will be those who will say to me, "This man may have perfected this innocent scam and been conning the checker," or "That old rascal knew perfectly well what was on that card having already purchased his beer next door at BiMart." But wait...Jesus said,

"Feed the hungry," he didn't say, "Judge them".

There are those who would remind me the value of \$40. I know full well what it takes to earn that amount. Years ago, in the 1960's, there was a silver-mounted bit that I wanted soooo badly. It cost \$50 (today it is valued much higher), so as a stay-at-home mom of two, the only thing I could do was begin to save every quarter I could, and I did. I'll bet I got close to that \$50 mark five times, and each time something would come up, like groceries, or a medical emergency, or someone wore the knees out of his pant's and needed new ones. I valiantly continued in my quest to save this \$50. Eventually I did. I got the bit, and my show horse carried it well. So, yes, I know the value of \$40.

This has been a conundrum for me, and I fully intend to talk to someone about the best way to handle it in the future. There are far too many of the working poor trying hard to get along and earn their way, but no matter how hard they try, they can't seem to get ahead. There, but for the Grace of God, go any one of us. Just one more thing, as I loaded my car with my two reusable bags (worth \$40), I saw the man unloading his bags out of the cart and into reusable bags on his bicycle. Yep, he rode a bicycle down there to get groceries. What arrangements he made, if any, might have been I don't know nor do I care. He got fed and I smiled like a big dope all the way home.

In Christ

**Joey**