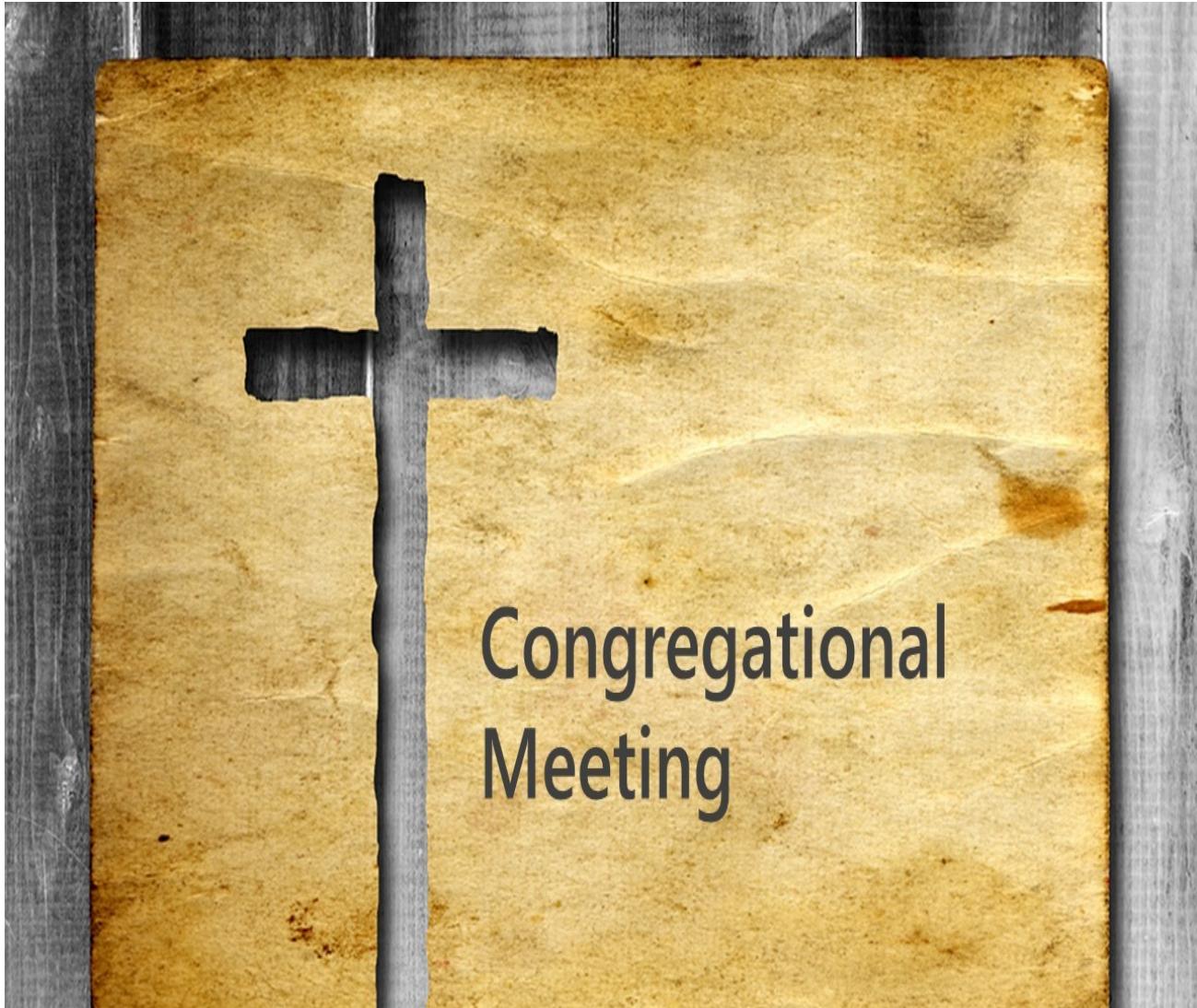


Bedford Presbyterian Church



January 29th, 2017

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting
01/31/2016**

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order at 11:22 AM.
Pastor John Salley served as moderator.
Dot Kuhn-Kibbey, Asst. Clerk of Session served as the Clerk of the Meeting.

We opened with prayer from Pastor Salley.

Minutes of the, 12/13/2015 & 12/25/2015 meetings were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Tom Foster and was seconded by Dot Kuhn-Kibbey. Motion passed

Noting that a 2015 Annual Report had been passed out and also emailed to the congregation, Pastor Salley asked all the current Session members to stand and answer any questions from the Congregation.

Sandy Johns asked what the “Sexual Misconduct Allegation Response Team” was for. Pastor Salley explained the Church’s Sexual Abuse Policy and how those would be the people who would investigate any allegation that was lodged.

John Blair asked about Rev. Salley’s proposed 2017 Sabbatical which the Pastor also spoke to.

Paul Van Dyke spoke about the details of fiscal 2015, and presented the 2016 budget as approved by Session (see attached). He also said that pledges were the strongest since 2010. And that the Session was able to give both Minister of Music Bill Rutledge and Custodian Herman Evans a salary increase. Instead of a salary increase, Rev. Salley asked that his Education Allowance be increased so those funds might be saved and later used to help finance his upcoming Sabbatical.

Jim Barefoot asked how the Church’s endowment funds were invested. Harvey Clarke explained.

Pastor Salley then left the room and Dot Kuhn-Kibbey presided over the discussion of Pastor Salley’s 2016 Terms of Call. A motion was made to approve the Terms of Call by Tom Foster and seconded by Dave Stetson. Motion approved

Pastor Salley was brought back into the meeting and closed it with prayer after which the Congregation retired to lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Dot Kuhn-Kibbey, Asst. Clerk of Session.

**Bedford Presbyterian Church
Called Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2016, Sanctuary**

Rev. John Salley called the meeting to order at 11:27 am.
Rev. Salley announced that Patricia Schubert would serve as Clerk of the Congregational Meeting.
A quorum was determined to be present.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was held to 1) consider reinstatement of the deacons' ministry; 2) elect three elders, three deacons, and a trustee for class of 2019; 3) elect three congregational members to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee; and 4) approve the pastor's Sabbatical leave as part of his Terms of Call for 2017.

Reinstatement of Deacons' Ministry

This motion came from the Session. Lori Stetson explained that this ministry would put in place a structure for congregational care so that people would not fall through the cracks. The intent is to promote inclusion and unity within the church. Ordination would authorize the Deacons to provide home communion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved by popular acclamation.

Election of nominees Judy Blair presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee: Elders: Judy Blair and Joan Richwine would each be serving a second three-year term. Tricia Schubert would serve her first 3-year Term.

Trustee for 2019: Ed Schubert

Deacons: Lori Stetson, Ellen Foster, and Venus Gould

There were no nominations from the floor. Roy Cram moved and Becky Noell seconded; nominees were approved by popular acclamation.

Election of members-at-large for 2017 Nominating Committee

Linda Benton and Bill Mitchell volunteered to serve as members of the 2017 Nominating Committee. There being no further nominations, the nominees were approved by popular acclamation.

Approval of Sabbatical Leave

Rev. Salley explained that while it is a Presbytery recommendation for pastors to be allotted a minimum two-month sabbatical leave for every seven years of service. Having been in his current position for ten years without a Sabbatical leave, the session has put forth his request that a sabbatical leave for August and September be approved as part of the pastor's Terms of Call for 2017. With no further discussion, the motion was approved by popular acclamation.

Adjournment

Rev. Salley concluded the meeting with prayer, including a blessing for the Harvest Home Pot Luck Luncheon to immediately follow. The motion to adjourn was made by Al Toney, seconded by Judy Toney, and shown approval by the congregation. The meeting adjourned at 11:49 pm.

Next Meeting: The next called Congregational Meeting will be held on January 29, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Schubert
Acting Clerk

Reviewed by:

John Salley
Moderator

January 2017 Deacons Report

The recorded history of the deacon ministry at Bedford Presbyterian Church began in 1871 and ended in 1986 when BPC Session voted to eliminate the deacon board and assign what were previously deacon responsibilities to the twelve ruling elders. Many other individuals continued to minister to the body of Christ throughout the years but most Session members found it difficult to give their full attention to both the business and the people of the church simultaneously. Over the years several groups such as the Congregational Care Teams were organized to focus on assisting in deacon-oriented ministry and worked very well until the participants became burned out at which point the teams would dissolve.

Three years ago Reverend Salley and the Session began discussing short and long term visions for our church. Consequently he invited me to help investigate the need for deacons at BPC and the possibility of re-introducing a Deacons Board to the church structure. Issues that we identified included: - How could we do a better job meeting the spiritual needs of shut-ins?

- Could we build a ministry that enabled a stronger network of relationships between members?
- If the Deacons were re-instated what needed to be done differently to avoid burnout or their roles being reduced to chief cooks and bottle-washers as had often been the case in the past?
- Was it necessary to ordain deacons or could this ministry be accomplished as a work group?
- What would the structure of this ministry look like and under whose authority and/or what committee would it operate?

January of 2017 saw the dreams, input from congregation members, false starts, re-tooling, interviews with past deacons and other church deacon boards, discussions with Session and above all – lots of prayer come to fruition with the ordaining of 3 new deacon at BPC. Ellen Foster, Venus Gould and myself are blessed to begin this journey with the congregation. Our goals for this first year include the following:

- building a well-trained team of church members to assist in the visitation and meals ministry.
- working with the pastor to organize elder deacon teams to bring monthly communion to shut-ins
- building the foundation for a church-wide prayer ministry
- exploring ways to support the various ministries at BPC and ways to help individuals make connections within those ministries.
- working with the Session and congregation to envision ways to bring our ministries to the Bedford community and beyond. How and to whom are we being called to serve?

We have a dream list of additional ways to serve but this year will concentrate on getting our initial teams up and running efficiently. Please consider prayerfully if you might have a place either in one of our current ministries or as a voice in the planning of the prayer ministry. Those of you – and there are MANY – who are individually serving your neighbors, we would like to know how we can help and support you. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged, questioned and enabled us to re-establish the Deacons at Bedford Presbyterian Church.

In His Service, Lori Stetson

Discipleship Report

- Small group ministry started up this fall with four groups and over 50 participants.
- Children's Church School K-5 continues with the guidance and support of six teachers and six assistants.
- New membership classes are being offered twice a year.
- The planned for confirmation classes will be starting in early 2017. Students will be paired with mentors.
- Something More Bible Study was held this past year with over 25 students in attendance. A summer 2017 offering on the book of Revelation is scheduled.
- Lower floor class rooms were cleaned out with supplies moved to the third floor.

Fellowship Team:

Here are the dates & themes for our upcoming Pot-Luck Meals.

2017	Theme
1/29	Soup and pie
2/26	God's abundant love
3/26	Chili / Potato bar
4/30	Bouquet of Blessings
5/28	Patriotic Red, White, and Blue (Veterans Day)
6/25	Picnic Sunday location T.B.D.
7/23	Pastor appreciation and send off (salads+ deserts)
8/27	Aloha
9/24	Our immigrant ancestors-celebrate your heritage
10/29	Stewardship Dedication
11/26	Harvest of Blessings
12/31	New Beginnings on New Year's Eve

2016 Accomplishments of the Property Committee

In January the Property Committee proposed a number of projects for 2016 and provided money in the 2016 to accomplish the tasks. As of January 2017 some of the projects were completed, some are in progress and some have not been finished.

- A. Repair of the sanctuary ceiling was accomplished in October at a cost of less than \$1,000. The same contractor also refurbished and painted the outside columns under the same contract.
- B. The parking lot was repaired and sealed in October at a cost of \$900.
- C. Handrails were added to the stairs to the attic and to the basement. Labor and materials were donated.
- D. Replace weather stripping around all of the outside doors. The materials have been purchased but the project awaits a “work day” to complete it.
- E. Adding microphones to the choir area was tried but was determined not to be a good action and was dropped.
- F. Replacing the carpet in the sanctuary was not done but may be part of a new project that will be discussed later.
- G. Replace or relocate the water fountain on the ground floor. This has not been done. The fountain still provides water , but not cold water. Low priority.
- H. Replace the security light over the sidewalk near the parking lot. The light has been purchased but has not been installed. Low priority

In February the session approved the sale of the large propane stove and the commercial refrigerator in the Community Center since neither appliance was being used only once or twice per year. A buyer was found who offered \$3,800 for both which we accepted. A smaller electric range was installed to be used as a warming appliance.

Several other projects were identified and worked on:

- A. The refrigerator in the kitchen began leaking and was replaced in August with a larger one donated by a member. This appliance had a very good ice maker and when the large ice maker in the fellowship hall failed, it was not replaced.
- B. The 3 ½ ton heat pump on the first floor (which was about 20 years old) failed in November and was replaced with a more efficient unit. Cost: \$5,300.
- C. The wooden door and frame on the outside sign at the front of the church was rebuilt to make it weather tight. Labor and Materials were donated..
- D. The flower refrigerator developed leaks in the cooling system several times during the year and were repaired usually costing \$200+ each time. If it fails again, we should consider a replacement.
- E. Sanding and refinishing the wooden floor outside the right door from the sanctuary. A quote was obtained but has not been approved. This also may be part of a larger project noted below
- F. Painting the wrought iron fence near the sidewalk. The cans of spray paint were purchased but we never found the right time (warm temperature and no wind) to finish it.

In November a review of our water usage showed that rather than our normal two month usage of around 5,000 gallons, the August bill showed 30,000 gallons usage and the October statement showed we used 50,000 gallons. The property was checked for leaks. There were none. We concluded that the Town of Bedford used our water without permission to construct the park next door during the summer. The Town has agreed to reimburse the church \$1,000. Centerfest vendors may have also used our water in October. We plan to install cutoff valves inside the church in 2017 to prevent similar future problems. Also, all flushing mechanisms will be replaced on the toilets and a couple of old faucets will be replaced in 2017. The Bedford Water Authority has agreed at no cost to the Church to replace our 1 ½" service line with a ¾" line that should save about \$100 per month.

In November the church was offered at no cost, except for transportation, 30+ pews that First Presbyterian of Covington, VA recently removed from their Chapel when they converted the chapel to another use. The ends of the pews look just like ours, but the seats are solid oak while ours are painted fiberboard. Their pews are 10' long. Ours are 12'. One of the small pews was transported from Covington and is located in the Fellowship if anyone would like to check it out

You may not be aware, but our pews and the carpet in the sanctuary are at least 40 years old. The Property Committee is currently checking the feasibility and costs to transport the pews to Bedford, replace the old carpet, sand and refinish the wooden floors under the pews and the area outside the right door from the sanctuary and either modify or replace the cushions. It may be an opportunity to get a "new sanctuary" for a very reasonable cost. Although we would lose a few seats because of the shorter pews, we would get wider aisles especially near the windows and much safer seats.

When the costs have been determined, the project will be presented to the Session and if approved then formally presented to the congregation.

In case you might have wondered who keeps the outside of the Church in good shape, Lee Richwine has "volunteered" to keep the grass mowed, bushes trimmed and the leaves removed this year. Thanks, Lee, for a great job!

Your Property Committee: Jay Gould, John Blair, Ed Schubert, Tom Foster, Richard Tate, Lee Richwine and Harvey Clarke (Chair)

Missions Team Report

Did you know that Bedford Presbyterian Church tithes 10% of all that we receive on to other ministries? In 2016 these were some of the missions and ministries that were supported by your regular offerings & special gifts. –Thank you!

Bedford Christian Ministries	\$ 3,930.00
Bedford Christmas Store	196.00
Bedford Domestic Violence	982.00
Bedford Pregnancy Center	982.00
Cool Springs Campership Program	786.00
Gracie Murphree (our Missionary)	3,930.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2,681.00
Roanoke Rescue Mission	982.00
Shepherd's Table	1,965.00
Society of Saint Andrew	<u>2,947.00</u>
	\$19,648.00

We also collect special offerings and receive gifts designated in support of other ministries.

Monthly 5¢ a meal offering	2,733.00
Souper Bowl (for Bedford Christian Min.)	359.00
Heiffer Project	1,202.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund gifts	4,814.00
Christmas Joy	100.00
Jackson family Christmas offering	<u>1,810.00</u>
	\$11,018.00

We are very grateful for and extend a special thank you to all the volunteers personally active in the various Bedford ministries:

- The Shepherd's Table: cooking and serving meals, and administering the Program.
- Bedford Christian Ministries: serving clients, and in the Food Pantry & Clothes Closet.
- Bedford Primary School: serving as volunteer teacher's aides or special instructors.
- Bedford Christmas Store: Stocking shelves and helping clients shop for their family.

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT – 2016

The responsibilities of the worship team include the following things: making sure that worship occurs regularly and on special occasions, finding pulpit supply when the pastor is absent, making sure the nursery is staffed, preparing and/or updating manuals for weddings and funerals, making sure ushers/greeters are available, insuring that communion is prepared and that elders are in place to serve communion. During 2016 it was my privilege to work with a dedicated group of people to insure that all of the above things happened.

During 2016 we had the privilege of having a representative from Chosen People Ministries join us for a special worship service in the Fellowship Hall that allowed us to experience a Seder Meal and to come to a deeper understanding of the Passover meal. It was an encouragement to learn the symbolism behind the items on the Seder plate and to see how the Passover meal points Jewish people (and us) to the finished work of Christ.

Another annual highlight is always Abendmusik. It was a great joy to again host an evening of music that each year brings us visitors from the community. We are grateful for the hard work of our minister of music which enables choir, Joyful Noise, and outside musicians to share the message of Christmas.

During 2017, the worship team will continue to work with Pastor John and Pastor Bill to keep refining and improving our corporate service of worship on Sunday mornings. We will also be working to insure that worship continues throughout our pastor's sabbatical and are grateful that Rev. Philip Parker will be sharing God's Word with us during that time. It continues to be my privilege and joy to work with Session and to serve this congregation as chair of the Worship team.

2016 Financial Highlights

- Budgeted Income and expenses balanced for year
 - Contributions down 2% year to year (YTY) – weak November and December compared to strong earlier results
 - Total unrestricted income down 1.4% (YTY)
 - Expenses 3.6% below budgeted level
- First Fruits donations at 10% -- \$19,383
- Net annual cost of Community Center: \$250
 - Costs offset by building rental and donations
- Investment Accounts Performance:
 - Fields Investment Fund increased \$8,340 – 10.1% (as of 1/1/2017- \$91,078)
 - Maupin Endowment Fund increased \$12,360 – 6.7% - (as of 1/1/2017- \$196,620)
- Financial Audit completed for fiscal 2015
 - Financial position confirmed
 - Two minor recommendations:
 - Ensure all invoices properly approved before payment
 - Develop a policy for dormant restricted accounts
 - Action plan implemented for recommendations
 - Additional action in process for vital record retention

2017 Budget Discussion

- Net active membership is down 8% (15) from January 2016
- There were 94 identifiable giving units in 2016, 48 of which (51%) had 2016 pledges
- 93.6% of 2016 pledged contributions were received for \$151,491
- There are 91 assumed giving units in 2017, 35 of which (38%) have made 2017 pledges for \$133,752
- Pledge income is assumed to be received at 95% of pledged amounts
- Non-pledgers are assumed to continue giving at current rate
- Maupin endowment income will continue to flow to general fund
- Field investment income will start flowing to general fund
- Sunday school, loose plate, and facility usage fees continue at 2016 level

2016 Cash Summary

Cash Reconciliation						
Period	Jan 1 2016	Full Year		Jan 1 2017		
Fund	Gen	Gen	Endow	Gen	YTY Change	
Beginning Value	\$ 38,331.88	\$ 38,331.88	\$ 267,000.19	\$ 35,611.49	\$ (2,720.39)	
Unrestricted Income		\$ 167,692.40	\$ 10,274.10			
Pre-Paid Pledges	\$ 14,455.00	\$ 14,455.00		\$ 12,000.00		
Restricted/ Designated and Flow Through						
Income		\$ 31,838.39	\$ -			
Transfers		\$ 7,907.86	\$ (7,907.86)			
Interest		\$ 3.92	\$ -			
Rental		\$ 3,767.00	\$ -			
Change in Value		\$ -	\$ 19,332.33			
Total Inflow	\$ 14,455.00	\$ 225,664.57	\$ 21,698.57	\$ 12,000.00		
Budgeted Expense		\$ 189,043.46	\$ 1,000.00			
Non-budgeted Restricted, Designated and Flow Through						
Expense	\$ 14,455.00	\$ 39,341.50	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00		
Total Expense	\$ 14,455.00	\$ 228,384.96	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 12,000.00		
Over/Under	\$ -	\$ (2,720.39)	\$ 20,698.57	\$ -		
Ending Bank Balance	\$ 38,331.88	\$ 35,611.49	\$ 287,698.76			
Restricted Total	\$ 6,373.93	\$ 17,761.11		\$ 5,761.11	\$ (612.82)	
General Liquidity	\$ 31,957.95	\$ 17,850.38		\$ 29,850.38	\$ (2,107.57)	

2016 Income and Expense and 2017 Budget

FUND	ACCT/SUB	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET '16	ACTUAL '16	BUDGET '17	Year to Year
GENERAL						
INCOME	4000	INCOME				
	4020	UNRESTRICTED				
		Pledges (- Prepaid)	\$ 139,900.00		\$ 121,752.00	
		Pledge Confidence	98.15%		\$ 0.95	
		Pledge Projection	\$ 137,311.85		\$ 115,664.40	
		Non-Pledged Run Rate	\$ 34,400.00		\$ 46,922.45	
	4030	GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$ 171,711.85	\$ 165,099.99	\$ 162,590.00	
	4040	CHURCH SCHOOL	\$ -	\$ 33.06	\$ 30.00	
	4070	LOOSE PLATE	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,559.35	\$ 2,560.00	
		<i>Subtotal Donations in year</i>	\$ 173,711.85	\$ 167,692.40	\$ 165,180.00	
		Prepaid Pledges Released	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,455.00	\$ 12,000.00	
		<i>Subtotal Unrestricted Giving</i>	\$ 187,711.85	\$ 182,147.40	\$ 177,180.00	-3%
	4510	BANK INTEREST	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.92	
	4611	FEES RENTALS -- MAIN STREET		\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,360.00	
	4612	FEES RENTALS -- COMM CTR		\$ 2,407.00	\$ 2,407.00	
		TRANSFERS TO/FROM ENDOWMENTS	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 7,907.86	\$ 9,200.00	
		<i>Subtotal Non-donation Income</i>	\$ 8,804.00	\$ 11,678.78	\$ 13,000.00	10%
		TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	\$ 196,515.85	\$ 193,826.18	\$ 190,180.00	-2%
EXPENSE	5000	EXPENSES				
		TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 131,245.00	\$ 130,885.18	\$ 130,204.93	
		TOTAL ADMIN OFFICE	\$ 4,780.00	\$ 3,980.26	\$ 3,980.26	
		TOTAL PROPERTY	\$ 32,374.00	\$ 30,525.17	\$ 29,231.00	
		TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP	\$ 630.00	\$ 548.06	\$ 500.00	
		TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	\$ 460.00	\$ 294.96	\$ 300.00	
		TOTAL MISSION	\$ 19,651.59	\$ 19,383.32	\$ 19,018.00	
		TOTAL SESSION	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 5,750.04	\$ 1,275.00	
		TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	
		TOTAL WORSHIP	\$ 5,070.00	\$ 2,176.47	\$ 5,550.00	
		BUDGETED TOTAL	\$ 196,060.59	\$ 189,043.46	\$ 190,059.19	
		Over/(Under)	\$ 455.27	\$ 4,782.72	\$ 120.81	
		Audit Expense:		\$ 4,500.00		
		Total General Ops Spending		\$ 193,543.46	\$ 190,059.19	-2%
		General Ops Spending (Over/Under)		\$ 282.72		
		Restricted & Nonbudgeted Expense Total		\$ 39,341.50	\$ -	
		Restricted & Non-Budgeted Over/(Under)		\$ (7,503.11)		
		Overall Over/(Under)		\$ (2,720.39)		
		Of Which: Reduced Prepaid Pledges:		\$ (2,455.00)		
		Restricted reduction due to spending:		\$ (612.82)		
		General Ops Spending (Over/Under)		\$ 282.72		
		Restricted released to General Ops		\$ 64.71		

2016 Pastor's Year End Report

This has been my 10 th year of ministry with Bedford Presbyterian Church and it has been joyful! Joyful in that there is a healthy spirit of worship in the Sunday Church services (thank you Bill), several new ministries growing, such as Small Groups (thank you Philip), and new members joining.

A 5-week “New Members Class” was one of the new programs we began this year. We are planning for it to run twice yearly, but so far it has been an annual January event. One of the very enjoyable aspects of this class is that it is also open to “old members” who wanted to get some refreshment or just to get out of the house in mid-winter (3 member couples took advantage of this last year). A New Member class is currently running this January, 2017 with 6 participants.

This year, the Thursday night, “Something More Bible Study” celebrated its 6th anniversary regularly attracting 25 members and friends to the Fellowship Hall for a 1½ hour Bible Study. In these 6-years we have surveyed all the books of the Bible, took an extensive look at Biblical prophecy leading up to the Book of Revelation (which by popular demand, a study we will be repeating Thursday evenings this Summer). We also worked our way through a reading of the unified Gospels – all four at once – followed the Apostles through the Book of Acts, and then did a close reading of all their letters.

This fall we let the class go down for a while in order to birth the Small-Group Bible studies, led by Church members in their homes. Though painful for some this transition has proved successful in that 40 members now meet weekly in 4 different groups for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and ministry. There is still plenty of room for you too! But not to worry, Something More will be back at least in the summer months. Bill Rutledge also folded his Prayer Group into the Small Groups, but it has again returned under the leadership of our new Deacons who were ordained and installed this January. By myself, I get to visit all shut-in members at least quarterly. Now with the Deacons we are visiting with and serving communion monthly to just about every shut-in Church member.

As to preaching, I began the year bringing “Lessons We Can Learn from the Heroes of Genesis.” Then, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this Summer I switched over to preaching verse-by-verse through the Book of Romans (Paul’s letter that reformed Martin Luther’s heart). I took a break from Romans to preach Advent and Christmas themed sermons and I will do so again at Easter. Then following Easter through the 2017 summer months I will bring a series of sermons out of the Book of Acts. Finally in September, following my return from sabbatical, I hope to return and finish up with Romans.

There have also been many special opportunities for prayer, growth, and fellowship. In addition to the monthly Pot Luck Meals led the Fellowship Team, along with two hymn Sings, and a Church picnic at Falling Spring Park, we were privileged to find Christ in the Passover under the guidance of Messianic Rabbi Neal Suratsky. We also joined with other Bedford Churches in the community wide Lenten Lunches (with David Grigg chef and many volunteers serving one of the meals), I was privileged to bring the Good Friday message. In the summer, we joined with Holy Name of Mary in the Catching Fire Tent Revival. Also, the Bedford Hiking Club strolled, biked, and canoed, out nine times. And the 4th Annual Cram’s Mountain Meadow Turkey Shoot was a literal blast of fun. This fall, I and four other Church members attended the Franklin

Graham Pre-Election Prayer Vigil in Richmond. Then I happily joined 48 members and friends at the Roanoke Christmas Concert (thank you Judy Blair), rang bells for Salvation Army, sang with the choir for Abendmusik, and ended off the year with a bad Cold.

Now for the annual statistics.

In 2016 I officiated the wedding of Valerie Van Dyke to David Rasmussen.

I also officiated at the funerals for Jimmy Noell, Aimee Jo Stevens, Connie Markham, B.J. Parker, Dot DeShazo, and Billy Cunningham.

Here is the membership summary for 2016

175 active memberships at the start of the year.

-4 member deaths

-5 members transferred to other churches

-8 inactive members removed from the rolls.

+2 members joining by transfer in from other churches

+2 members rejoining by reaffirmation of faith

162 active memberships at the end of the year.

(But this count does not show the 4-6 new members ready to join early in 2017; so our actual count should be 168-70).

Finally, here are the boards and committees with which I am regularly involved.

Who they are

Bedford Prayer Fellowship :

Secretary for Bedford Ministerial:

Peaks Presbytery Com. on Ministry:

Fellowship of Peaks & Mid-Atlantic Presbyteries: meets monthly for lunch - 3rd Wed.

Bedford Christian Ministries Board:

Bedford Area Resource Council:

Moderator of Peaks & Pisgah Church Sessions: these boards meet quarterly.

When they meet:

monthly over 7am. Breakfast – 1st Tuesday

monthly over lunch – 2nd Tuesday

meets monthly (all day) – 2nd Thursday

meets monthly for lunch - 3rd Wed.

meets monthly @ 2pm. – 3rd Wednesday

meets monthly @ 8:30am. – 3rd Friday

Respectfully submitted,



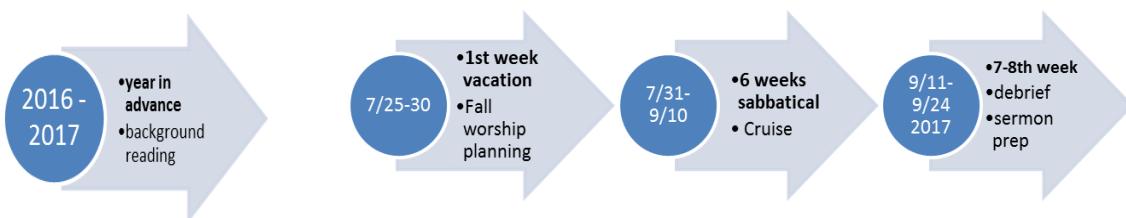
John Salley

Salary Comparisons for Rev. John Salley, 2013 -2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	(2017 proposed)
Base salary:	\$32,612.00	30,600.00	30,400.00	30,600.00	30,600.00
Housing:	\$24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Deferred:	\$2,600.00	2,400.00	2,600.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Effective Salary:	\$59,212.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00
+Education :	\$1,500.00	1,200.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00*
+Mileage/Meals	\$1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,195.00
+BOP Dues:	\$19,540.00	19,950.00	20,805.00	20,805.00	20,805.00
Total Cost:	\$81,752.00	79,650.00	80,805.00	82,805.00	82,000.00

Rev. John Salley: 2017 Sabbatical Scheduling & Finances.

Tuesday, July 25th - Thursday, September 24th – 9 Sundays out of pulpit



\$ 25,000 total estimated cost for Sabbatical.
 - 3,200 2016 Pastor's "Education funds" used.
***- 3,000**
 - 3,000 ?? PCUSA Board of Pension Sabbatical Scholarship funds.
 - ?? Peaks Presbytery Sabbatical Scholarship funds
 \$ 16-19,000 (??) out-of-pocket cost to Rev. Salley

\$ 2,700 Additional 2017 expenses for Bedford Church budget to pay for
 Sabbatical pulpit supply & pastoral services (\$300 x 9 weeks).

2017 Sabbatical proposal: Tracing the Path of Celtic Christians to the New world.

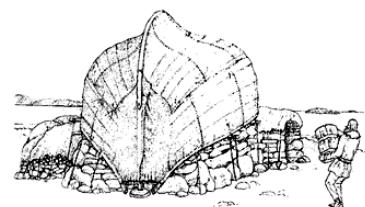


According to popular American legend, Vikings were the first Europeans to discover the North American continent around 1,000a.d. However that theory is contradicted in their own historic records of finding “remains” of Christian settlements everywhere they went. Also because, rather than being brave new world explorers, Leif Eriksson and his crew were more likely outlawed Scandinavians living as pirates and slavers preying upon another group of people who inadvertently led them here.

This is a theory put forth by Canadian Naturalist Farley Mowat after a careful reading of the Viking annals combined with a rethinking of his own archeological investigations. The result of which was the publication of, *The Farfarers, Before the Norse* (Key Porter Books, 1998), a history of Celtic migration to the New World that reversed most of his own earlier conclusions about Viking travels in the region (*West Viking*, 1965).

Those people the Vikings were chasing are called “Albans;” a Celtic Christian seafaring race of ivory hunters, fishermen, and farmers, who had formerly inhabited the northern Scottish and Irish coastline. Being competent deep water sailors, it is likely that the Albans knew of North America and the islands in between as early as 500a.d. (as indicated in the tale of “Brendan the Navigator.”) Thus around 700a.d. as Viking raiders began overrunning their coastal homeland, it was to these refuges that the Alban's fled, bringing their Christian faith and priests with them: first to Iceland, then to Greenland, and on to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, where they finally settled to eventually blend in with the local tribes. And this is where descendants of the Albans may continue to live to this day as hinted at by a somewhat distinct subgroup of Native Americans nicknamed "Jakatars" (possibly derived from the Basque language meaning "a follower of the Christian God" [Mowat 320]).

There is also archeological evidence left along their path to indicate the passage of these seafaring Celts. First there are many carefully built stone tower beacons, placed on a height of land to lead seafaring ships into safe harbor. Then there are ruins of ancient villages containing large curiously roofless stone houses, unlike any Viking construction, because the Albans used their own overturned skin covered boats as roofs during the winter months. And then lastly there are the free standing stone crosses (not intricately carved like the tall crosses of Ireland, but crosses none the less).



So, what does the New World migration of an early group of Christians have to do with a 21st century sabbatical? As a pastor and teacher, I have long wanted to personally incorporate more of the unique joy and positive theological attitude found particularly in the Celtic version of Christianity that spread across Ireland and Scotland from St. Patrick. After 800a.d, Patrician Christianity became largely suppressed under Latin Catholicism, but this more joyous form of faith continues to bubble up wherever it was first planted, and it certainly was the faith that the Albans carried with them to the new world.

For a couple of decades, through readings in Celtic history and theology, I have sought to integrate this more joyous spirit of Christianity into modern



Church practice. Then as I was looking into a possible sabbatical study in Scotland or Ireland, serendipitously a Holland American Cruise Line brochure caught my attention. Touted as a "Voyage of the Vikings," this 38 day cruise departs from Boston for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, and Ireland; and then it returns back along the same route essentially twice tracing the Alban migration to the new world.

So, for me this cruise would constitute a type of personal pilgrimage, not in traveling to a specific holy site, but in following the watery path of these seafaring Christians as I read deeper in Patrician thought and theology. And while it is doubtful that much physical evidence of their earlier passing has been left at the modern ports of call, I will still be able to walk the same ground, feel the same air, and seek out the Celtic spirit in the current residents as I converse with them about life and faith and other things that matter.

The cruise also offers several real advantages over a two-month land residence. Certainly it will cover a lot of physical ground, while greatly simplifying planning and saving on costs. But most importantly, with little additional expense, it will also allow my wife Betty to join in the journey portion of the sabbatical, so that we might together share this adventure and its memories for many years to come (because of her employment restrictions, Betty would not be able to participate in a lengthier land based sabbatical).

What do I hope to bring back from this sabbatical to enhance my current Church work?

1. A refreshed spirit from sharing an extended time with my wife away from both her job and my ministry.
2. Also a larger collection and deeper appreciation of Celtic theology, poems, prayers, and etc. which I can incorporate into our modern worship services.
3. And perhaps even a replica stone cross or other Celtic treasure found along the route which a cruise line has billed as a "Viking voyage."

Clip Art: Irish postal stamp depicting image of a 7" golden replica of an ancient Celtic seafaring boat (Broighter Hoard). middle: illustration Alban skin boat used as winter roof (Mowat, pg 142), and then the 9' tall standing stone cross, by the Payne River near Ungava, Newfoundland. The small square stone on the right arm was a modern -tourist?- addition (reference the photo in Mowat).