WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

When colonists first traveled across the Atlantic to the New World they brought with them Old World commitments, antipathies, and ideas. One of these was the commitment to religious establishment – that is, for the sake of order and stability, so the thinking went, a government must have a central and favored church which supports the existing rule. Dissenters could be granted some measure of freedom to worship, but were excluded from the political process (voting or serving in government) and from certain professions such as law or medicine. Catholics, non-trinitarian Christians, and Jews received no toleration. In the New England colonies, the Congregational Churches were established; our Puritan forebears did not look kindly upon Presbyterians, Baptists, or Quakers. In the South the Anglican Church held sway. There were, to be sure, experiments in non-establishment, in Rhode Island, in Delaware, and most notably in Pennsylvania, but the “normal” expectation was establishment until the ratification of the Constitution and its attendant amendments, called collectively the Bill of Rights. In the founding documents was the bold and unheard of proclamation that there could be no lawful religious test for public office, and that the Federal government could neither establish a religion, nor impair its free exercise among the citizenry. Disestablishment was intended to protect religious groups from the coercive power of the state. But it also had the effect of moving religion from the realm of the personal and public to the individual and private.

Disestablishment was intended to protect religious groups from the coercive power of the state. But it also had the effect of moving religion from the realm of the personal and public to the individual and private. Robert Bellah, the pioneering sociologist of religion, in his *Habits of the Heart* (1985), relates his encounter with Sheila Larson. When asked to describe her religious commitments, she does so not in terms of some denomination, but as “Sheilaism,” naming her “faith” after herself. Sheila believes in God, thinks we should help each other, and insists that she be gentle with herself. She can’t remember the last time she was in church. Sheila is the classic example of those who now describe themselves as “spiritual but not religious.”

Today the fastest growing religious demographic in America is “nones” (who express no particular religious preference and may have no experience with church) and “dones” (who went to church at one time, perhaps as children, but no more). An overwhelming majority of Americans still insist that they believe in God (although exactly what they believe is vague at best). But what they prefer is a do-it-yourself buffet religion that serves their therapeutic needs without entangling themselves in traditional churchiness.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

May promises to be a busy month here at John Knox Presbyterian Church.

**May 18**—Meeting of the Cherokee Presbytery

**May 19**—CASA/Youth Combined Worship Service

**May 26**—Special Congregational Meeting for the Purpose of Electing a Nominating Committee for the selection of New Elders

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*John Knox Presbyterian Church*

“A neighborhood church where the Story is told.”

May, 2019
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE (CONTINUED)

We are now witnessing a surging second religious disestablishment: the first was the legal disestablishment of the early republic, but the second is a societal, cultural disestablishment that combined with a seething, increasingly pervasive anti-institutionalism, has rendered churches arcane if not archaic, mustily antiquarian, and certainly irrelevant. The response of churches has been varied and inventive, from ever more social relevance to if-you-can’t-beat-them-join-them entertainment, but none has been especially successful (mega churches notwithstanding). My own inclination, perhaps indicative of my own deep down conservatism, is to be more Presbyterian, not less; to treasure the traditions more, not less; to insist on clear theological articulation not vague theistic paplum. Perhaps our role, like the monks and monasteries of the Middle Ages, is heroically to protect and preserve the truth until God is ready to do something new. Welcome to the new Dark Ages.

Fritz

SESSION SYNOPSIS

The Session met for its monthly stated meeting April 14, 2019.

- The Session continued an ecumenical Study called Reclaiming Jesus as its devotional, focusing this month on Matthew 20:20-28 and the servant.
- Session approved a $35,000 bid from Silverio’s Roofing to replace our Admin and CE roofs.
- Our HVAC systems have all been inspected and received routine maintenance for the upcoming cooling season.
- The stump by the sanctuary has been removed and some needed tree trimming was done thanks to LaVert Jones.
- The Boy Scouts are planning to use the two containers presently sitting on our parking lot as the structural components for their new Scout “hut.” A major wok day is scheduled for May 11th.
- The Session has formed an ad hoc committee to develop our web site. Chief concerns are to make the web site attractive, useful, and easily kept up to date. Kim Archer is convener.
- Session approved a proposal from Staci and Erma to collect and recycle markers through a program administered by Crayola.
- CASA Sunday will be May 19th with the BCC in the Sanctuary.
- Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday May 26th following worship to elect a Nominating Committee. Irene Misencik will be the committee moderator.
- Fritz reminded the Session that we will be co-hosting the next Presbytery Meeting in May with the BCC.
- Next Stated Meeting: June 9th following worship.

There will be a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee for the selection of new Elders following worship on Sunday, May 26th
Liturgists
12 - Shelby Robert
19 - Kim Archer
26 -

Oversight Officers
12 - Floyd Bushey
19 -
26 -

Usher Captain
Mary Lapp

Our At-Home Members:
Janelle Bridges, John Mackey and Betty Romine

Ongoing Concerns:
Dee Allison, Hope Hanson, Betty & Henry Izard, Madeleine Moseley, Cindy & Mark Proctor, Madeline Ramsey, John Spangler and our soldiers in harm’s way
Here we go, less than 4 weeks left. This has been a wonderful school year and we have seen lots of improvement and growth in the children. Homework is winding down, but we are continuing to encourage learning through CASA "contests" - we will have our first ever CASA Spelling Bee on November 10th, the 3rd & 4th graders are memorizing the states [their locations] and continents in a Geography Challenge, the Kindergarteners are participating in a "learn to tie your shoes" challenge, and lots more! Our new reading programs, Raz-Kids and Headsprout, which were funded by the Dollar General Literacy Grant we received earlier in the year, have been a big hit. As these are online programs, students will be able to use them from home throughout the summer, and HOPEFULLY, this will help with the "summer slide" we see in reading. We will also be using it during our summer camp.

Friday, May 3rd we hosted our 2nd Annual CASA's Got Talent Variety Show. Thank you to Shatoya Anderson and Marsha Williams for their dedication and encouragement of the kids to be active and participate in events that make them stretch their comfort zones.

Speaking of Summer Camp - we still have spaces that need to be filled. Please share our information with friends and neighbors that may need a camp for their children. The hours are 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday and weekly rates are under $200 - which includes everything - food, activities and field trips. A beloved week of summer camp is our Vacation Bible School, which will be the week of June 10-14. We need volunteers for this, so please contact me if you are available to help with snacks or leading the children. Volunteers can be behind the scenes, hands-on, or financial sponsors! We would love to advertise our VBS and invite the community, but in all honesty, we cannot do that without a solid team of 10-12 volunteers. Do we want to reach out, or are we ok with just serving the children already here for camp? Your response will make the decision for us!

AND, speaking of Volunteers - we will be honoring our CASA volunteers on Friday, November 10th at 3:00 PM. This is a favorite event for the children as it gives them a chance to love on the volunteers just like they love on the kids all year.

Sunday, May 19th will be the CASA Youth Sunday service. The children have been working on songs and are practicing their reading parts. I hope you will join us for this opportunity to worship with our international family.

Many thanks for your love and support!

**Staci**

John Knox Presbyterian Church  
June 10-14, 2019  
Kindergarten - 5th grade  
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
Email jkpccasa@gmail.com to register or volunteer!
We are grateful for the following contributions to our Easter Lily Memorial Fund:

Dee Allison in memory of James Allison and Elizabeth Ruggles

John Bennett in memory of Priscilla Bennett

Rose Blount in memory of Promise Blount and Mabel Brown

Fritz Bogar and Ann Clay Adams in honor of Norma Adams

Delores Coe in memory of Dick Coe

Mary Lapp in memory of Burt Lapp

Marty Lindeman in memory of Chris Lindeman

Dan Page in memory of Jack Page

Stephanie Glymph-Ramsey in memory of Nickole Justice and Tom MacMillan

The Ramsey/Glyph-Ramsey Family in memory of James Richard Glymph and Marie Vernon Burrus Glymph

Kay Reeve in memory of Dot Reeve

Shelby and Rosalind Robert in honor of our Pastor Fritz

Evelyn Samples in memory of Henry K. Samples

Mary Seagroves in memory of Fentress Seagroves

Roger and Patty Stringer in memory of John Stringer, Andy Muller and Don and Ollene Kordecki

Nan Smith in memory of Marjorie Smith and Ruth Shover

John and Bev Spangler in honor of students and teachers at CASA

Carol Wolf in memory of her sister Martha Hoofngage
Presbyterian Women

Change for Helping Hand

BREATHE EASY FOR CHANGE FOR HELPING HAND: Breathe Easy Month is celebrated in May. Does this mean kick back and relax because we’ve met our goals or there’s no longer a need? Absolutely not! Why we can breathe easily is that we have Change for Helping Hand in place at John Knox; having fresh ideas to give, having a congregation constantly supporting the fund, and being known in the community as a church who serves. For us to continue to help, keep taking deep breaths and sharing. It’s Hamburger month; when you grill or go to a picnic, save same change. There’s also Universal Family Week; share for a healthy family life. You may not be able to breathe easy with the flowers blooming this spring, but you can breathe easily knowing JK has the right formula for replenishing the Helping Hand Fund!

Serving Sisters Circle

Grillin’ up burgers for the ladies at the Women’s Extension on Wednesday, May 8th. You welcome to join; preparations at 6:30 and dinner served promptly at 7:00. We are going to put together a Mother’s Day Basket as a little treat for them. Please call if you need more information, 678.463.8437.

Keep Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 pm, open for our planning meeting. This month we will most likely be supporting “Helping One Woman” Marietta dinner. We will finalize the details soon.
Many cultures consider music study as part of every child’s education. All oriental cultures hold this view. Americans ask, why? Why insist a child have a musical education if they are not super talented or “want to” take an instrument? For young children it builds fine muscle control. Everytime one hand does one thing while the other hand does something different, a new pathway is forged in the brain. When the right side of the brain must also rely on the left side of the brain new crossover connections are being made. Autopsies of musicians brains show an enlarged core in the brain, nerve crossovers between the right and left side. In today’s society one realizes the importance of this multi tasking ability. Mathematical talents are greatly enhanced by piano study which is the ultimate in “each-hand-doing-something-different”. Oriental cultures knew this connection many centuries ago. Not only is the making of music a satisfying expression of our emotions but it is also a good workout for our brains.
**John Knox Presbyterian Church**

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**As disciples of Jesus Christ, together we seek to grow spiritually and to demonstrate God’s love by serving others.**

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**5 May 2019**  
3rd Sunday of Easter  
Jeremiah 33:4-9  
John 21:15-19  
*To Follow Jesus*  
Communion

**12 May 2019**  
4th Sunday of Easter  
Ezekiel 34:11-16  
John 10:22-30  
*What Sheep Know*

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**19 May 2019**  
5th Sunday of Easter  
Youth / CASA  
Combined Worship

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**26 May 2019**  
6th Sunday of Easter  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Revelation 21:1-5  
*God Coming Down*

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**Church Office Hours**  
Monday — Friday  
9 AM — Noon

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**11:00 AM Traditional Service— Sanctuary**  
**10:30 AM Brazilian Christian Service - Fellowship Hall**