



# *The Belltower*

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church

## *June-July 2017*

### THOUGHTS AND WRITINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Members and Other Friends of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church:

We have been doing a great deal of “opinion gathering” from those people who have been in attendance in worship. The first “gathering” happened while many of our Winter Member/Visitors were still here. It focused on congregant’s reactions to our “Third Sunday Celebrations.” The second and third “gatherings” happened after our Winter Members/Visitors had returned home and focused upon preference times for worship and worship styles. The data is too voluminous to report “raw” data, but in this article, I am going to try and summarize some of the data. First the data from the Celebration Sunday Survey.

#### **Third Sunday Celebration**

There were a total of 70 respondents. Over two thirds (69%) of the respondents had attended each of the three services, while only 14% had attended just one of the services. Nearly eighty percent of the respondents agreed that the Worship Committee had met its goal of creating a casual “contemporary service” When asked about elements of the worship service (60%) liked the choice of music while 72 % liked the inclusion of a time for “Passing the Peace.” When asked about the inclusion of the youth in one of the Celebration Sunday Services as song leaders 51% found it helpful while 40 % found it either distracting (13%) or neither helpful or distracting (27%.) Two elements of worship, the offering and the choir were not present in the Celebration Sunday format. Those reporting missing the choir were (28%) while (58%) reported not missing having a choir. The percentages of those missing having a dedicated time for the offering were almost identical with 26% responding “yes” and 60% responding “no.” That which may be interesting about those desiring musical leadership for the singing of hymns, while the choir was not missed, 72% reported the desire to have someone or a small group of persons (praise team) leading the music. Slightly more than 46% of the respondents expressed a preference for Communion to be served in the pews versus gathering at the Table (22%) the highest percentage of “Does Not Matter” or “No Opinion” occurred with this question where 32% expressed that opinion. In response to most of the other questions, right around 14-15% of respondents offered “No Opinion.” Finally, respondents reported that 30% preferred the Celebration Sunday format for worship while 45% expressed a preference for a “Traditional” format for worship. A full 25% reported no preference.

The “Comments” included on the survey forms proved noteworthy. The comments as a whole were very constructive in their praise and criticism. In numbers alone, the comment that received the most cites was “that standing for four songs in row was way too long.” This criticism was noted and changed during our most recent Celebration Sunday. Another oft mentioned comment was the need to have music leaders who are properly equipped to do their job, particularly with the proper technical support. Microphone difficulties, the balance of the loudness of the music being played by the instruments, the song leaders voices being properly amplified, were all noted as being in need of attention. Other

“production quality issues” such as the desire to have music projected on screens and the deployment of other technology was noted. Amidst the constructive criticism were also complements that ranged from applauding the effort to doing something new, to an expression of thanks to Jarrod Rabold being a one-man band on guitar and drums. Several respondents expressed appreciation for Bette Nagele stepping in to preach in my absence. People also expressed thanks for the lay leaders like Katherine Heindel who led portions of the worship service. Yes, and it would not be a Presbyterian Service without someone reminding the pastor that worship services should last one hour at the maximum.

### **Surveys #2 and #3**

The results from the Celebration Sunday were interesting as far as preference for service times. Almost as many persons expressed No Preference (24 persons,) as did the number one time preference 10:00 am (26 persons.) The remainder of the times and votes were 11:00am (7), 9:00 am (5), 8:30am (5), 10:30am (1), 9:30am (1) and 8:15am (1.) This data raised our curiosity about worship times so a new survey was designed to gather data about service times. I messed up the verbal instructions to the congregation and the survey design led to some confusion because a secondary area of interest (having a choir) was also part of the survey. The results of the survey were not remarkable, but some comments clearly indicated some respondents were confused about how they should respond to express their preference. So.... Survey #3 was introduced to try and eliminate some of the confusion.

Sixty-three persons participated in the survey and the “clear preference” was for a 10:00am service start time. Of the 63 respondents 36 (57%) expressed a preference for the 10am start time. Ten (16%) persons expressed a desire for an 8:30am service time, while 9 (14%) persons expressed a desired start time of 11:00am. Five persons (8%) desired an 11:00am start time and the remaining 2 (3%) wanted a 10:30am start. The internal data regarding the “style” of worship was illuminating. Those who expressed a preference for the 8:30 start time, favored a “Contemporary Service” five or (50%), while three or (30%) wanted a “Traditional Service,” with the remaining two or (20%) wanted that which was described as a “Simple Service.” The 9:00am start time persons (5) split between “Contemporary” (2), “Blended” (2) and “Traditional” (1). The 10:00am start time respondents spread over four styles of worship. The majority (16 or 44%) desired a “Traditional Service,” followed closely by 14 persons (39%) who would prefer a “Blended” service. Four (11%) persons in the 10am start category desired a “Simple Service” while the remaining two (6%) preferred a “Contemporary Service.” The 10:30 start time folks (2) split evenly between “Blended” and “Traditional,” while the 11:00am start time folks (9) tied 4 to 4 between “Blended” and “Traditional” with one vote for “Contemporary at the 11:00 am start time.

### **So what?**

As a former researcher, I can tell you that when you get data like this you cannot draw too many conclusions. Words like “correlation” and “statistical significance” don’t really apply here. One might say with some confidence that, it is clear that a 10:00am start time is the preferred time if we are having a single service. One may also conclude that by a narrow margin a “Traditional Service” (25 or 40%) is preferred followed closely by a “Blended Style” (21 or 33%.) The “Contemporary or Celebration Service” did garner 16% of the votes and a “Simple Style,” even had support (6 or 10%.) The data for the most part demonstrated that time preferences were pretty consistent between the sampling for the “Celebration Sunday” evaluation and Survey #3. It also became clear from the surveys that the interjection of the idea of having a “Blended” style of worship, seemed to take away preference for a “Contemporary Service” as the percentage desiring a “Traditional Service” did not adjust much from the first survey to the last.

So if I had to list 5 things we have learned from this process that are supported by the data they would be:

- Producing a high quality “Contemporary Service” involves some logistical, personnel and technical resources we currently do not possess. We have been limited, we have learned how to adapt, but any future effort to “produce” this type of service will take investment and a new approach to planning worship.
- There is a desire that if we are going to have a single service that it be at 10:00am.
- There was a major flaw in our methodology for collecting data. It was collected only from people who were present. It is very fair to only let those who have been in attendance to evaluate “Celebration Sundays,” but the data about worship times and style preferences may be skewed because we only asked people to express an opinion if they were attending worship. Some members are staying away because of time preferences. There is great debate in the Session about how attention to preference of those who have voted with their feet should count because many of those who are not attended worship because of time are not choosing to participate in the life of the church in other ways (some are through financial and prayer support.)
- There are a substantial number of persons who have expressed that while they have personal preferences, their desire is for the Session to make decisions about worship and all other aspects of our life together that glorify God and are for the good of the congregation both now and into the future.
- Whether we want to admit it or not, Dunnellon Presbyterian Church has changed. On the third survey, one of the “style” options listed was “Southern High Church.” That option was the ONLY option to not receive a single vote. The ONLY option to not receive even one itty-bitty vote. Guess what? When I arrived here in February of 1998, the style that would best describe the 11:00 service was “Southern High Church.” We processed from the rear of the Sanctuary, the choir had multiple choral responses, we had Acolytes in cute little white robes lighting the candles, a Bible Bearer, ushers in their finest suits that worked with the precision of a Marine Honor Guard, and people expected me to drop two or three quotes from famous theologians or classical authors into every sermon (that only one or two really understood- even the pastor) so they could brag to their friends about the intellectual sermons their pastor preached. Whether it has been the movement of the Spirit, or the action of the Devil, we have moved far away from that style, so far that some of the Session thought I just made that “style” up as a joke. Knowledge of that change does encourage me, because I know, this congregation is capable of making the changes that may be necessary to serve God faithfully into the middle of this century and beyond.

The Session will continue to listen and discern. We will be establishing our Fall Sunday Schedule at our June Meeting. We will be praying. We will be discerning as a Session. I invite you to join in that process of prayer and discernment. If you have something to share with a Session member give them a call, an email or a text. Catch them before or after worship and share your hopes and dreams face to face- surveys often fail miserably at collecting the “data of the heart.” Reach out to those who you have missed in worship and guess/know they may not be here with us because of choices we have made moving to the neutral 10 am time during this period of discernment. Most of all, crown all things with love bringing Glory to God!

With God’s unshakable love and regard,

*Pastor Jeff*

**DPC OFFICE HOURS**  
**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**  
**Phone: 352.489.2682**

### **A Question from the Treasurer**

Dear DPC Contributors/Donors:

It has come to my attention that Dunnellon Presbyterian Church received an IRA Charitable Gift, in the form of a check, in May, which has no donor identification. The brokerage firm will not disclose any donor information related to the check. This gift is currently received as anonymous. Therefore, if you have recently requested an IRA Distribution as a Charitable Gift to DPC and you do not wish to remain anonymous, please call the church office at 352-489-2682 and speak with Cheryl to accurately identify the gift.

Thank you,  
Craig Henry, Treasurer

### **BELLTOWER NEWSLETTER MAILING UPDATES**

1) August will start our "email only" mailing for those who have signed-up for this service. If you haven't signed up yet and would like to receive the full version monthly Belltower Newsletter by email please send an email from your preferred email address with the subject line "BELLTOWER MAIL" to:  
[dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net)

2) We are also changing to First Class Mail (49¢ stamp) in August 2017, because we are below the Bulk Mail 200-piece limit. We will be breaking even financially with our current list, because we will no longer need to purchase the monthly bar code processing software.

3) Please keep your address updated by calling the office and please let us know if you do not wish to receive the Belltower by USPS mail.

4) If you'd rather pick up your, individually labeled, Belltower in the Narthex on the last Sunday of each month, please call Cheryl at the office 352-489-2682.

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**Email: [dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net)**  
**Website: [www.dunnellonpcusa.org](http://www.dunnellonpcusa.org)**



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# PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S CLUB

## JUNE MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 am**

June Men's Club will meet at 8am Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Purple Sage for food, fellowship, prayer concerns, session report and discussion of needs of the Church. Please notify Don K. (352-489-2682) by Monday June 19 for reservations.

## JULY MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club meeting for July is the 20<sup>th</sup>. Please notify Don K. (352-489-2682) by Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> for reservations. Same Location.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## PW CIRCLE 3 ONLY

**Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

The Evening Circle of the PW, #3 Lydia, will meet at 7pm on Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>, in order to complete our study of *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*. Come and join us for dessert and fellowship! Any questions? Call Janet at 352-489-2682.

**The Mary Martha Circle** (morning) has voted unanimously to merge into either the Pat McDowell Circle (1:00 - afternoon) or the Lydia Circle (7:00 - evening) due to decreasing attendance during the past several years.

I am sure those members of Mary Martha Circle will become an asset to those Circles which they opt to join, and that they will be warmly welcomed to join with them as members of DPC Presbyterian Women's Organization.

We will be looking forward to joining with you in September.

Barbara C.  
Mary Martha Circle Leader

# PW COORDINATING TEAM

No Meetings in June or July.

We will meet again on

Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

**STILL NEEDED**

## FOR THE ELEMENTARY CLASS

**for September 2017 - May 2018**

**We need your help!!!**

All Curriculum is provided and is very easy to use! All adults are welcome to apply for this position. Just come take a look at the curriculum and see how easy it is to prepare & teach the lessons. Also, the students are eager learners so it is a **lot of fun** as well to share God's Word with these eager hearts!

Please contact Christian Education Coordinator, Wayne C. at 352.489-2682

**Thank you to Wayne C.**, who has agreed to teach the **Middle School Level** Sunday School Class for the year 2017-18.

## DIALOGUE & DESSERT

**Dialogue & Dessert Class** will meet every Monday evening in June at 6:30pm.

~~But will take a Summer break for the month of July.~~

~~Dialogue will resume on Monday August 7, 2017.~~

\*\* Dialogue will continue through July except the week that Pastor Jeff is on vacation.

## PARSING WITH THE PASTOR

**Parsing with the Pastor** will meet every Thursday in June at 11:00 am.

~~But will take a Summer break for the month of July.~~

~~Parsing will resume on Thursday, August 3, 2017.~~

\*\* Parsing will continue through July except the week that Pastor Jeff is on vacation.

# CHURCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

## MOVIES WITH MEANING

**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.**

Title To Be Announced  
Watch your Sunday Bulletin

## EXERCISE CLASS

Monday and Thursday at 9:15 am,  
year 'round!

## MAH JONGG

Thursdays 12:00 noon,  
year 'round!

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden is continuing to improve. The landscape fabric is down and the mulch has been spread by the youth of the church. The canna lilies from Easter have been planted in the ground; the begonias are in pots. Holly bushes have been planted where the dead ones were removed.

Come take a stroll through the garden and see the improvements!

Jean K.

The Memorial Garden looks great!  
A big **"Thank you"** to Hunter C., Josh M. and River M. for spreading 14 yards of mulch. Job well done!!!

*Memorial Garden Committee*

## DPC ANNUAL COOKOUT



**"Burger & Dog Day"**  
**JULY 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

~~~ Menu ~~~

**Hamburgers & Hotdogs**  
**Cole Slaw**  
**BBQ Baked Beans**  
**Dessert**

**Patriotic Entertainment**

**all for just \$7.00 per person**

**Everyone is welcome!**  
**Just show up & enjoy!**

**All proceeds after expenses  
for the meal will be given  
to the Benevolence Fund.**

 A "Two-man Scramble" 9-Hole Golf Tournament  
**HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FALL** 

*Thank  
You!*

As I find myself stepping back from teaching and supervising Sunday school, I would like to thank all the people who have supported the children's Sunday school classes with me, especially LouAnn B., Ally T., Charlotte B. and Kathy C.

I must also thank Laurie Snell for her work in the nursery class and Wayne C. for taking over many of my duties in education. I pray others will volunteer to teach the children and help in other ways, because parents should not be the only ones the children see in those capacities. Please ask Wayne how you can help or even better write it on one of Charles' super volunteer forms.

God bless,

Bette N.

*Thank you*

*Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my brother's illness and passing. God Bless you all,*

*Marianne C.*

**Thank you**

**Thank you so much for the Easter Gift Card. It helped us out tremendously this year. We love DPC. All the love and support you give us, we honor you from the bottom of our hearts. We pray for everyone's health and happiness this year. Thank you for a Happy Easter.**

*(from a recipient family of the DPC "Love Gift" Program)*

Dear Pastor Welch, the Session, and DPC Members and Friends,

I cannot express enough to each of you the depth of my thanks for your prayers, phone calls, visits, flowers, uplifting cards, and offers of meals, in sympathy and empathy, to me following the sudden death of my dear brother John. Thank you for easing the pain of this grief. John was loved by everyone who knew him and greatly admired for his selfless service in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

A very special thank you for the patience, understanding and compassion of Pastor Welch and the Session toward me throughout this time. I am ever so grateful.

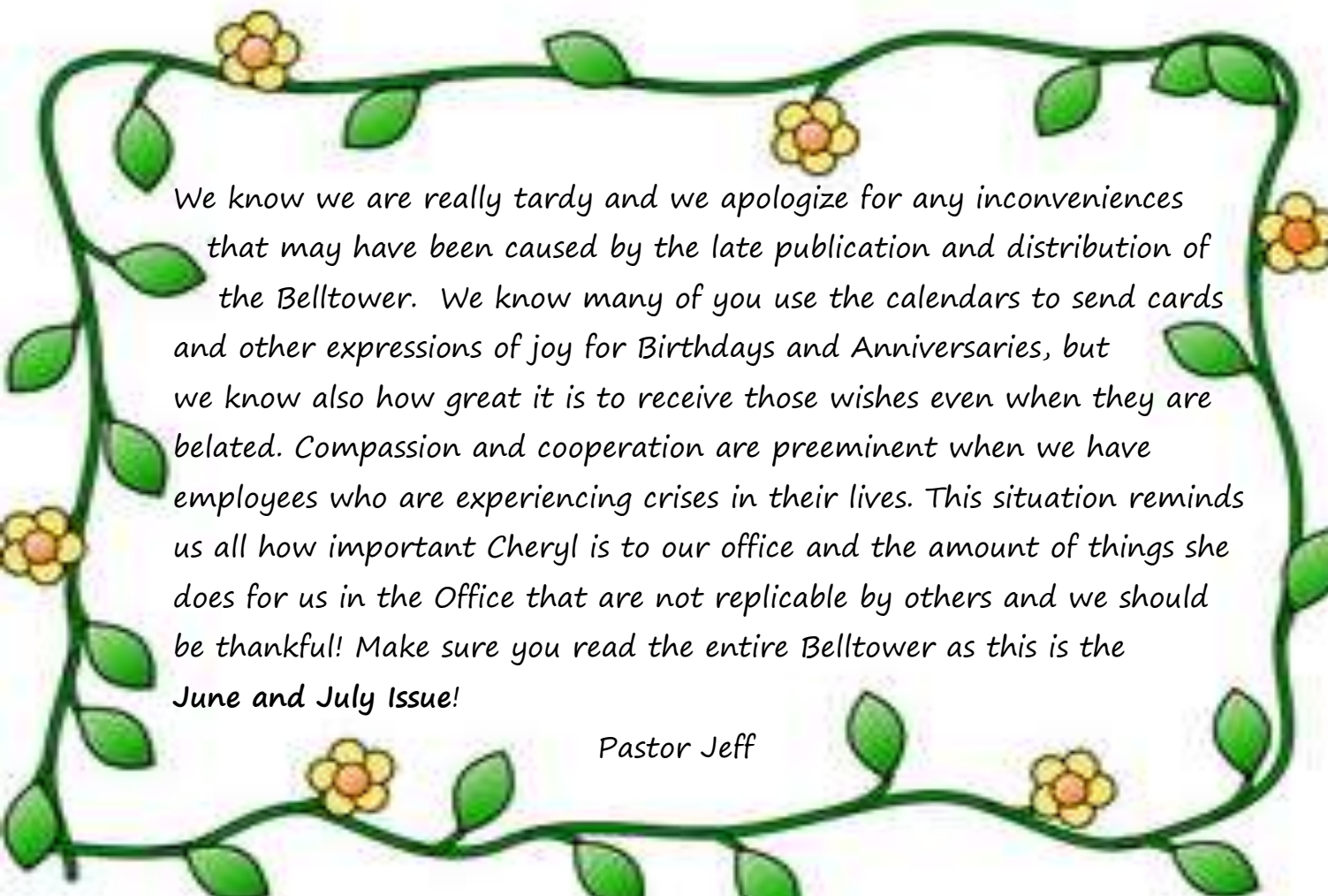
Sincerely and Fondly, Cheryl

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REV. JEFFREY W. WELCH, PASTOR

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*We know we are really tardy and we apologize for any inconveniences that may have been caused by the late publication and distribution of the Belltower. We know many of you use the calendars to send cards and other expressions of joy for Birthdays and Anniversaries, but we know also how great it is to receive those wishes even when they are belated. Compassion and cooperation are preeminent when we have employees who are experiencing crises in their lives. This situation reminds us all how important Cheryl is to our office and the amount of things she does for us in the Office that are not replicable by others and we should be thankful! Make sure you read the entire Belltower as this is the June and July Issue!*

*Pastor Jeff*