September has arrived and with it the return to school of many children. For adults, it is the signal of the end of summer and the vacations or long weekends that we enjoyed at the camp sites or elsewhere. Oddly enough, September is a time for resolutions. We most often think about January and the New Year’s resolutions. However, as schools start back and our attention returns to our more normal routine, many rededicate and resolve to apply themselves to their tasks.

Very few resolutions last. When we find that we are not able to follow through with our resolve, we often abandon them and move on with our life. When the resolutions are for things like: eat better, exercise more, or quit smoking; we may feel a little guilt but we soon settle into a comfort zone as we resume our life without changing as we resolved.

What about the resolutions that we make to live a more godly life? Perhaps we have been remiss in our attending and helping our church family through the summer months. Perhaps we just see where we need to do a better job of living the life that God has called us to live. Regardless of our intentions, we sometimes fail. Should those failures cause us to abandon those resolutions?

Paul wrote to the church in Rome and talked about people who were born outside the promise given to Israel and also to the children of Israel. In his letter, Paul basically demonstrates that we have all sinned and failed to live a life that God laid out for us. Paul uses that failure to present the case for Jesus. In Jesus we have a new life. We have forgiveness of our failures and sins. What happens when we slip up after being baptized? Even Paul talks about his own failures in this letter to the Romans.

For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. (Romans 7:14-20 NASB)

Paul acknowledged that he failed and that left him in a very bad situation. He then asks and answers the question.

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:24-25 NASB)

While we strive to do our best, we often fail. Paul clearly points out that our salvation is in Jesus the Christ and not our ability to live a sinless life.

The apostle John also addresses the idea that we might fail in living a perfect life. In 1 John, he encourages us to live a perfect life. However, he goes on to say:

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (or Intercessor) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation (satisfaction or payment) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. (1 John 1:8-2:2 NASB)

So, as we resolve to make the changes to align more nearly with a godly life, we may fail. Rather than abandoning our resolve let us confess to God that we are weak and need His help. He will listen and respond.
Monthly Devotional

In the Waiting Room (Isaiah 40:30-31)

by Kristin Schmidt

What is your general waiting room attitude? It is sometimes interesting to sit and observe behavior in an office waiting area. Of course, a lot depends on the office and what it is we await, but in some ways there are seasons of life that mirror the mentality of waiting. We might be anxious, bored, rushed, or indifferent, but in waiting periods our best (and truly only) approach is to relax, accept, and do what we can.

Sometimes waiting rooms fill us with dread. Fear of impending pain from a dentist’s drill or doctor’s needle may force us to jump with every click of a door handle or tap of a nurse’s clipboard. Perhaps we wait on news or results, and sweat with distraction as we nervously leaf through magazines and breathe heavily the antiseptic atmosphere. Or perhaps we are more concerned with the agony of timing...there are places to be, deadlines to meet, and we are uncertain of how long we might be stuck here in forced patience.

What does all of that anxiety achieve? Nothing, really, except perhaps a higher blood pressure reading when we finally do get in to the examination room. But is it possible to avoid the stress? Of course! We can choose to relax. We recognize that there is genuinely nothing we can do to alter the events going on around us or to move our name up on the appointment check-in sheet. So we may as well sit back and make the most of things: offer a time of prayer and worship; make a list of plans and necessities for the rest of the day; thank and praise God for the privilege of having access to medical help; or just relax and enjoy a good book or a trashy magazine.

We can discover similar attitudes when we find ourselves in the “waiting rooms” of life. We may be waiting on the job offer or the house sale; we might be wondering when the relationship will finally come our way; or perhaps just in a steady and stable place questioning what lies ahead. Our responsibility is to be faithful in patience. It might seem God is silent or we will sit in anticipation endlessly. Yet we know that a seeming eternity to us is but a breath in God’s eyes. The Bible is full of examples of those who waited. Noah waited and trusted, but also took action to prepare the ark. Moses waited on deliverance, and then waited in the desert with the wandering Israelites. Barren mothers like Rebekah, Sarah, and Hannah waited on the word of the Lord to come to fruition and provide a promised child. Prophets throughout the ages waited, and didn’t even always see the words of their messages prove true. We see through their example that, regardless of what else we do, we can rest in God’s goodness and wait upon Him. When we do so, our patience will be rewarded through His promises. And we can relax with or without knowing what lies beyond the waiting room door.

Well….next up?

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” -Psalm 27

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” -Isaiah 30:18

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” -Isaiah 40:30-31

Submitted by: Lesley B. Woolard

DWM Minutes

The Bath Christian Church DWM met in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. There were twelve ladies present: Betty Schmitt, Linda Heath, Joyce Aydlette, Diane Adams, Rachel Jordan, Nancy Hill, Helen Brooks, Jessie Brooks, Dee Beckman, Barbara Morris, Debbie Smith and Cynthia Stell.

Debbie presided and opened with prayer. The devotion was given by Dee from Barbara Johnson’s book *Daily Splashes of Joy.*

Rachel presented the program using Max Lucado’s book *The Gospel of Mark.* This lesson title was *The Greatest Commandment* and was the eleventh in this series of study. The scripture reference was Mark 12:28-34.

The offering was collected and a prayer was given by Barbara. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. There was no treasurer’s report.

Debbie read a thank you note from Wanda White for the prayers, cards, calls and texts she has received during her recent sickness.

New Business:

Nancy moved that up to $500.00 be used to update the Columbarium landscaping. Rachel seconded. Carried.

Barbara will be ordering new books for our next series of study which will be Max Lucado’s book *The Gospel of Luke.* If you are interested in a book, please contact Barbara Morris at 252-923-0990. The cost for each book is $11.00.

There will be no DWM meeting in September due to Revival.

We closed with our benediction.

October 25, 2017 meeting will be presented by Barbara Morris from Max Lucado’s *The Gospel of Mark Lesson Twelve (12).*

Respectfully submitted by:  
Cynthia Stell

September’s Schedule

Greeter Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>Marcia Norman</td>
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<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Terry Woolard</td>
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<td>September 17th</td>
<td>Gary Sheppard</td>
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<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Mary Lynn Edwards</td>
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Flower Schedule:

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<tr>
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<td>Barbara Oliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Carolyn Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17th</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Crystal Smith</td>
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<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Billy &amp; Kandice Dean</td>
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Nursery Schedule:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>Kathy &amp; Tori Dupree</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Cliff &amp; Rachel Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17th</td>
<td>John Scott &amp; Erin Cutler</td>
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<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Gray &amp; Lesley Woolard</td>
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Children’s Moment Schedule:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Alice Wingate</td>
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<td>September 17th</td>
<td>Kids of God’s World</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Jeff Staton</td>
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Music Ministry Update

It's hard to believe that it's time for the choir to reconvene from our summer “rest” on Wednesday, September 6. It has been quite an active summer for all of us. Children have graduated and now left for college. Some of our loved church family members have been hospitalized and are continuing to battle some serious illnesses. Some have had opportunities for wonderful travel experiences. Some have been packing and moving. Some have enjoyed family weddings and the celebration of new family relationships. Some have been more confined at home as they take care of loved ones. Some have lost dear loved ones who have been called to the arms of our loving Lord. Some have enjoyed summer fun with children and grandchildren. We have welcomed and enjoyed having our minister Jim Cullen and his wife Anne as part of our church family. It has truly been a summer of blessings and adversities. And that's all the more reason to be in church on Sunday and fellowship with one another. We need to praise together, pray together, and stay together. The next several months give us multiple opportunities to do just that as we enjoy worship and fellowship with one another.

The craft house is already buzzing with activity in preparation for our annual bazaar. Revival week will kick off on September 24. Once again we will be blessed with a variety of music at our revival. Homecoming Sunday is October 1st. And that Sunday also marks the beginning of our cantata rehearsals. The bazaar will be on November 18 and the Christmas cantata will be presented on December 10 and 17, so mark your calendars. With our upcoming revival, bazaar, and Christmas cantata, it promises to be a very busy but joyous autumn season as we praise God through our worship, fellowship, and singing. See you in church!
Nancy

New Members!

On July 23, 2017 we welcomed John & Frankie Jordan, along with their family as new members of Bath Christian Church. Welcome!!

Birth Announcement!

Gray Estelle Everett was born on July 14, 2017 in San Diego, CA. Proud parents are John and Taren Everett. Proud grandparents are John & Terry Everett and Bruce & Donna Gregory! Congratulations!!

One Call Now Message Alert System

Our church uses an automated system of communication to keep our members and attendees informed of events and happenings within our church family. If you are not receiving these calls [or know of someone] and wish to do so, please submit a phone number to Nancy Hill. We also need to know anytime a contact number needs to be deleted or updated.

Email nancyhill@gotricounty.com, text or call 252-402-7388. Thank you for helping us keep our phone directory as accurate as possible.
Church Family Prayer Concerns:
CM Cartwright, Charlie Clark, Bobby Drake, Melba Edwards, Marion Everett, Vernon Godley, Beverly Holt, John Holt, Jim Richardson, Howard Robertson, Sammy Robbins, Jack Wallace, Wanda White, Jeannie Woolard, & Unspoken Requests

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:
Mary Lou Alexander (Larry’s Cousin), Linda Baldree, John Barnhill, Mark & Mary Scott Baver, Verma Baynor, Frankie Black, Terry Black, Lois Boyd, Barbara Britt, Christy Carpenter-Weathers, Eli Clark, Bill Cook, Evan Cornelius, Colt Cowell, Bryan Douglas, Maryanne Edwards, Esther Flowers, Mary Gillam (Joyce Aydlett’s Niece), Patrisha Griffin, Jon Hadel, Amy Adams Hardee, Tawney Hollis, Jeff Jenkins, Vickie Jessen, Lane Jordan, Catherine King, Gerry Klas, Carol McRoy, Johnnie McRoy, Allison Mils, Brad Moore, Alvin Norman, Joyce Pitt, Mike Proctor, Beth Rodgers, Jeanne Rutledge, Angela Shakelford, Betty Slade, Cathy Slade, Jackie Smith, Sr., Jo Smith, Sarah Starliper (Gary Sheppard’s niece), Mike Trumich, Sue Waters, Ronnie Watson, John Winfield (Gloria Windley’s brother), Brandi & Jay Womble, The Family of Noah Ray Bonds, The Family of Mary Ross, & Unspoken Requests

Military Prayer List:

In Nursing Homes:
Charles “Pete” Fell, Dorothy Matthews, Mary Maynard, Barbara O’Neal, Robbie Peoples, Phyllis Barrington Taylor, Myra Wingate

Please submit any news to me for the October Newsletter by Saturday, September 23rd. Thank you!
You can contact Lesley Woolard at 252-945-9779 or via email: lesleywoolard@yahoo.com

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