



The Good News of Bath Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Mission Statement of the Bath Christian Church is:

*“To serve the living God, to nurture our personal faith,
& to witness the good news of God’s love to others.”*

~Pastor Jim’s Thoughts for January~

A new year is here and it brings new numbers to learn. We had learned to write the initial 20 after much practice. This year we will be bombarded with puns about the year and vision since we are now entering the year 2020.

It is also a year in which we will have a chance to vote for various elected officials including the president of the country. During this year, we will see signs planted along highways, in front yards, and pasted on cars and trucks, that will encourage us to choose one candidate or another. The process is not perfect and, at times, we may feel that it promotes more of a division rather than a unified country.

As I think on this process and the deep divide that seems to exist over who is better to sit in leadership positions, the word of a hymn came to mind. This hymn is not in our hymnal so I will share the first verse of the hymn “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand.”

*Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.*

This hymn was published in 1906 by Jeannie B. Wilson. Her inspiration came from the 89th Psalm where we read:

**The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours;
The world and all it contains, You have founded them.
The north and the south, You have created them;
Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name.
You have a strong arm;
Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
Lovingkindness and truth go before You.
How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!**

O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance. (Psalm 89:11-15 NASB)

To be certain, the winds of change often sweep across our nation and with the changes, we find ourselves caught up in anger and strife. Is this the way a Christian should live? Are we holding to God’s unchanging hand and trusting Him to bring about righteousness, justice, lovingkindness, and truth? Have we, as Christians, forgotten who we are and just where our citizenship must be if we are to be considered an heir of salvation?

Jesus was hours from His death on the cross, when He prayed one of (if not the most) passion-filled prayers recorded in the Bible. (For me, this is the Lord’s prayer.) It is found in the 17th chapter of John. In this prayer, we find His request to God:

I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe (Lit *continue to believe*) that You sent Me. (John 17:15-21 NASB)

In this brief plea, Jesus does not ask God to remove His disciples from the world but to separate them (sanctify) them in truth. This prayer covers us today as well (**those also who believe in Me through their word**).

It often becomes difficult for us to grasp that we live in a world but we are not of the world. The lines are blurred by our emotions and the noise that is around us. Paul reminds us of our tensions with the world in Romans the 12th chapter.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 NASB)

Being a citizen of this great nation is truly a blessing. The freedoms, rights, and privileges are numerous. However, as a Christian, we must never forget where our citizenship truly rests.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (Philippians 3:20-21 NASB)

for through Him (Jesus) we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18-22 NASB)

As we begin this new year, may our vision truly be 2020 so that we see clearly and make the right choices to live our life as a reflection of Jesus.

~Devotion~

For the Days When it Feels Like Jesus is Asleep

“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” Matthew 8:27b (NIV)

Sometimes on ordinary mornings, you can look up and find yourself in what feels like a tiny dinghy boat, surrounded by vast waters and a bleak sky. And those waters are choppy.

You get the kids off to school, and then you have to walk back into your house. Or your cubicle at work. Or that classroom. Or that appointment. And there are bumps waiting for you. There are people or headlines or medical tests or phone calls ... that can make the water around you swell and sway and make you uneasy inside your little boat.

And on days like that, I've looked around and wondered where Jesus is. *Where is He in the headlines, deadlines and in our own families? Where is He in our own aching bodies? Where is Jesus on the days when it feels as though He fell asleep on the Job?*

Have you ever thought that?

Have you turned on the news, or hung up the phone, or walked out of that meeting, or walked into that doctor's office and wondered: *What on earth is going on in my world today?*

There are so many days I can't make sense of this world He designed (and that we've broken). Sometimes my faith feels like too little putty to stuff the crack in the bottom of my leaking boat. The crack is too big, and my hands are too little, and my faith keeps letting the water seep in, no matter how desperately I work to plug the holes in what I believe.

Wake up Jesus. Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!

I was saying these words in my head while getting ready for church last week. And then it hit me. The obvious. *How did I miss it?* I stood in front of the mirror with a brush in my hand when I remembered that of course, I'm not the first one.

Of course.

I'm not the first one to stand desperate in a "boat," ... desperately afraid of the storm, wondering why Jesus is asleep on the job.

Matthew 8:27b tells us the disciples endured the furious storm and asked: *“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”*

Those first shaky disciples and I look out at the waves and the dark, angry clouds, and we're so afraid of what's coming. We want to control it or outrun it or survive it. But our faith is slipping through our fingers, and our boats are wobbly, and our Savior is *asleep*.

I stood in front of the mirror and made myself remember the story.

Jesus wasn't sleep because he didn't care. *He was asleep because He wasn't afraid.*

This is the part where my throat starts to get choked up, and I put down the brush and just stare into space.

And I can see two strong hands cover mine as I scramble at the bottom of my leaky boat. Two hands cover mine and cover the leak, and then I'm not taking in water anymore; I'm standing on the dry ground of a wooden floor constructed by a trustworthy Carpenter.

I don't have easy answers to the hard questions, whether they're on the news, coming from the doctor, a teacher, your co-worker or a dear friend. I only have the hope of a hand in mine. The hand of this man, Jesus, who isn't afraid, who can calm the storm inside of me, and who builds boats that don't sink.

Dear Lord, thank You that we can trust You. Thank You that no matter how loudly the storm screams or how high the waves get, You are always only one word away from calming our worst fears and speaking peace into our shaking hearts. Please be very close today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

.....Lisa-Jo Baker.....proverbs31.org

~Board Minutes~

The Board of the Bath Christian Church met November 18, 2019. Howard Robertson, Chairman presided. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Alexia Clark was added to the list of Junior Deacons. Leon Wingate made the motion and Pearson Chrismon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jamie Barnhill gave the treasurer's report which was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The storage area in the communion room has been completed.
2. Ordination of new members of the board will be November 24, 2019. They will officially attend their first meeting on the first Sunday in December.
3. Jamie Barnhill investigated the possible need for workers' Comp. workers' Comp does not apply to non-profits.
4. The new chairs for the Fellowship Hall are in place. All of the old chairs have been sold.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A request was read from Social Services asking for Christmas assistance for forty-three disabled clients. Billy Hill made a motion to give \$500 toward that need designated for adult clients. Becky Tuten seconded the motion which was approved.
2. Gerald Morris stated that Alex Shree met with the youth committee. She is interested in the position of Youth Director. She would coordinate all the youth activities. Employment will begin in January. The agreement included 20 hours per week. The new director will coordinate program with Claudia Alligood, current leader of Children's Church.
3. Leon Wingate requested that \$150 be approved for the Cantata Social. Pearson Chrismon seconded. Approved.
4. The minister reported that he made 41 visits to the sick and shut-ins at the hospitals and nursing homes. A Bible Study will be conducted in February. The theme will be "What are you afraid of?"

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Gerald Morris. June Wallace, Secretary

~CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met in the Fellowship Hall on October 22, 2019. There were fifteen ladies present: Gail Walton, Nancy Hill, Betty Schmitt, Diane Adams, Jean Winstead, Peggy Davis, Helen Brooks, Linda Heath, Nancy Robertson, Rachel Jordan, Marcia Norman, Sandra Dupree, Joyce Aydlett, Barbara Morris and Cynthia Stell.

Barbara presided and Nancy H. opened with prayer. Joyce presented the program using Max Lucado's book *The Gospel of John*. The lesson title was *Healing The Sick* and was the fourth in this series of study. The scripture reference was John 5:1-15. She closed with prayer.

The offering was collected and a prayer was given by Linda. In Nelda's absence, Cynthia read a brief treasurer's report. She read a thank you note from Athens Manna Ministry. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

Projects for the Bazaar are being worked on at the Craft House on Mondays at 9:00 am.

New Business:

The Bazaar sign-up sheet for preparing food for breakfast and lunch was available for sign-up. The items for the Raffle Ticket drawing were reviewed.

Nancy, Joyce, Debbie, Linda and Barbara will review the Christmas Shut-In List. They will make deliveries of gifts to them.

Nancy moved that a \$250.00 donation be given to the Salvation Army. Diane seconded. Carried.

A \$250.00 donation will be given to the Zion Shelter.

The Heart to Heart Women's Conference 2020 will be held at Harvest Church, Washington, NC. The dates are January 24, 2020, 7-9 pm and January 25, 2020, 9 am-noon. Website

www.hearttoheartconference.org for additional information.

Linda Heath will host the December CWF meeting. Time and date will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Stell

~CMF~

The CMF of Bath Christian Church met Wednesday November 6, 2019 with Leon Wingate presiding and 17 in attendance. Present were C. Cartwright, G. Heath, P. McRoy, B. Norman, M. Aydlett, C. Dupree, S. Stell, L. Wingate, H. Robertson, B. Hill, J. Cullen, R. Smith, L. Schmitt, D. Adams, G. Morris, J. Barnhill, and J. Walton.

Cooks for the evening were Wingate, Dupree and Aydlett. A great meal was prepared and appreciation was given to the cooks.

Dr. Robertson led the devotion. His presentation was about "Brotherhood", what men can do. He told of a Prince who had everything but was unhappy. He imitated others who appeared to be happy, but this did not change him. One day he saw a big boy helping a small child. The Prince asked the big boy why he did this and the boy replied because helping others makes me happy. A friend will do anything for his friends. Mutual interests bring us together. Friends helping friends, the brotherhood of the Son of Man.

Prayer concerns were discussed. Doc prayed for each mentioned.

Business Meeting

- Minutes of last meeting read and approved.
- Financial report given and approved.
- Have sold 45 of the old metal chairs.

Money put in CMF treasury.

--Discussed working with Bath Elementary School to help a family at Christmas.

--Financial contribution made to Ruth's House and Salvation Army.

--Sides to Moe Shack to be put up for Bazaar.

--Cooks for December are Barnhill, Smith and Hill.

Leon closed the meeting with prayer.

Called Meeting 11/7/2019

A family has been suggested by Bath Elementary School needing financial assistance at Christmas. CMF will support the family with a monetary donation.

Billy Hill Recorder

~January Schedules~

Greeter Schedule:



- January 5 Gerald Morris
- January 12 Joyce Aydlett
- January 19 Rachel Jordan
- January 26 Claudia Allgood



Flower Schedule:

- January 5 Rachel & Cliff Jordan
- January 12 Cynthia & Starley Stell
- January 19 LaDonna Younger
- January 26 Sylvia Barnhill

Nursery Schedule:



- January 5 Kathy & Tori Dupree
- January 12 Lesley Woolard & Lexi Clark
- January 19 Darlene Ormond & Debbie Smith
- January 26 Sandra & Claude Dupree

Reminder: At least 1 person should be in nursery by 9:45 AM and remain for late arrivals.

Children's Moment Schedule:



- January 5 Ellen Heck
- January 12 Carolyn Ambrose
- January 19 Kids of God's World
- January 26 Darlene Ormond

Serving Schedule:

January 5

Elders: J. Barnhill & C. Dupree
Deacon of Wk: Barnhill & Adams
Deacons: D. Adams, C. Cartwright
P. Chrismon, B. Dean

January 12

Elders: C. Dupree & G. Morris
Deacon of Wk: C. Dupree & E. Gurganus
Deacons: E. Gurganus, L. Gurganus
B. McRoy, B. Norman

January 19

Elders: G. Morris & H. Robertson
Deacon of Wk: G. Morris & L. Schmitt
Deacons: L. Schmitt, R. Smith
B. Tuten, D. Woolard

January 26

Elders: H. Robertson & S. Stell
Deacon of Wk: H. Robertson & L. Woolard
Deacons: L. Woolard, D. Adams
C. Cartwright, P. Chrismon

Eagles Wings

Eagles Wings food pantry is still accepting nonperishable donations. Supplies are especially needed during this holiday season. There are labeled baskets in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help. P.S. They desperately need plastic grocery bags. Empty bags can be placed in Eagles Wings boxes along with other items.

Church Directory Updates

Please make the following recent changes/additions to our Church Directory:

Ann & Bill Bertram, 105 Heron Lane, Bath, NC 27808
(no PO Box)

Nancy Hill – new email address beginning January
nancyhill@rsnet.org

(Please make the church secretary aware of changes).

~Announcements~

The January meeting of the CMF is being rescheduled from January 1st to Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Heart to Heart Conference

The Heart to Heart Women's Conference 2020 will be held at Harvest Church, Washington, NC. The dates are January 24, 2020, 7-9 pm and January 25, 2020, 9 am-noon. Website www.hearttoheartconference.org for additional information.

Fund Raiser

On Monday, January 27, 2020 from 5:00 to 8:00pm, Open Door Community Center will be partnering with Pizza Inn for a special fundraising pizza buffet dinner. Open Door Community Center opened January 22 and since then has helped 12 women and 12 children move from homeless to safe housing. Come and enjoy an evening out of the kitchen while helping homeless women and children in our community.

Happy 2020

"Well, we have a whole new year ahead of us. And wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be a little more gentle with each other, a little more loving, and have a little more empathy, and maybe, next year at this time we'd like each other a little more."

Judy Garland



Prayer Requests : Church Family Prayer Concerns:
Carolyn Ambrose; Ann &
Bill Bertram; Sara Bowen;
Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith &
Michael Corless; Ann Cullen; Bill Cutler; Bobby &
Donna Drake; Marian Everett; Pete Fell;
Marie Gonzalez; Beverly & John Holt;
Jackie Mullen; Gary Sheppard; Beverly & Ron
Tincher, caregivers, & Unspoken
Requests.

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns: Olivia
Armstrong & her mother Lee; Rickie Bause; Mark &
Mary Scott Baver; Ann Beckman; Frankie Black;
Roseanne Born, Vera Boseman; Judy Boyd; Susan
Boyd; Barbara Britt; Roy Buck; Virginia Chrismon,
John Conway; Ella Mae Copeland; Evan Cornelius;
Colt Cowell; Anthony Cutler; Rex Deffenbaugh;
Glenda Douglas; Sylvester Eberson; George Elliott;
Bobby Everett; Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris
Gibbs; Gail Gibbs; Danny Gonzalez sister; Pauline
Gurganus; Jon Hadel; Amy Adams Hardee; Don
Hardison; Chris Harris; Wade Hosey; Mike Isbell;
Allie Faye Ivey; Thurman Jackson; Becky Jernigan;
Vickie Jessen; Sheila Cox Jones; John Kelly; Sue
Kemmer; Linwood Lewis; Ronnie Martin; Barbara
Mason; Carol McRoy; Allison Mills; Josh Moye;
Alvin Norman; Gladys Owens; Emily Page; Mike
Painter; Kent Paul; Wilson Paul; Brian Peele; Ray
Pippin; Joyce Pitt; Larry Poore; Brandi Robbins;
Beth Rodgers; Wendy Rouse; Dean Sheppard; Betty
Slade; Jo Smith; Michael Spencer; Raymond
Spencer; Don Steffa; Leonard Sullivan; Susie
Swinson; Hope Blatch Tafair; Sonya & Roger
Tuning; Gary Tyer & his family; Becky Sheppard
Waters; Faye Waters; Ronnie Watson; Miranda
Woolard; Wendy Woolard; Jim Worthington;
teenagers throughout the world; students, teachers
& families; & Unspoken Requests.

The families of Donnie "Dion" Askew, Mike Barr,
Frank Stevens Bryan, Jr., Luke Cahoon, Judy
Gautier Everett, Eric Lawson, Alton Lilley, Tommy
Little, Jr., Kenny Gooch, Chris Harvey Parker, Jr.,
B. T. Quidley, Lloyd "Buddy" Sawyer, Jr., Cornelius
"Case" Van Wyk .

Military Prayer List:

Jim Bass, Blane Boyd, Chase Brooks, Zack Cook,
Timm Cox, Will Cutler, Zack Davis, Jonathan
Dupree, Grant Fath, Kerry Mills, Hayden Tankard,
Grayce Woolard, Lucy Wallace.

In Nursing Homes: Bonnie Kelly, Dorothy Mathews,
Bob Miller.

**Please submit news to me
for the February newsletter by
9:00 am Friday, January 24th. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com**