



# 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 March~

There is an old hymn that we sing from time to time that reminds us that Jesus is a friend.

*What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!*

The sentiment and idea in this song is that Jesus is a wonderful friend in whom we may confide all of our problems, pains, and doubts. So, what is a friend? I recently read an article in which it mentioned a middle school teacher asked her class to write an imaginative definition for the word friend. One student wrote: **"A friend is a pair of open arms in a society of armless people."** That is a profound statement and we all may well dwell on that for a few moments.

C. S. Lewis tells us: **"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You, too? I thought I was the only one.'"** As we wrap our minds around the concept of Jesus as our friend, maybe we can picture Jesus being that pair of open arms ready to encircle us and embrace us when it seems that no one else is willing to accept us. However, we have a problem with the idea that Jesus was ever in a situation where He and we ever shared a common thought or feeling. We forget (or don't understand) what Paul means when he tells us: **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7 NASB)**

Jesus literally became like us with the same feelings and emotions that we have.

This Jesus loves us. He tells us this in great detail in John the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

**"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:9-17 NASB)**

Within these few verses, I count the word **love(d)** nine times. Love is an important concept for Jesus. Maybe we need to review what love means.

As we speak today, we use (or over use) the word love for everything. We love pizza, we love our car, we love our house, we love a song, we even love our spouse. At the time the New Testament was written, the common language use was Greek. The Greeks had four different words for love.

First, there was the word **eros**, which is sexual love or passionate love. It is an emotional love. It is not found in the Bible yet it is a part of the romantic love shared between married couples.

Second, there was the word **storge**, which is the love and affection that naturally occurs between parents and children, can exist between siblings, and it is another component that exists between husbands and wives in a good marriage.

Third, was the word is **phileo**, which means to have a special interest in someone or something, frequently with focus on close association; have affection for, like, consider someone a friend. It most likely should have been translated as like.

Fourth, was the word **agape**. *This is the word used in John 15:9-17. Here is the definition of that word as found in Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words:*

- (a) to describe the attitude of God toward His Son, the human race, generally, and to such as believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, particularly;*
- (b) to convey His will to His children concerning their attitude one toward another, and toward all men;*
- (c) to express the essential nature of God.*

*"Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself."*

*"Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ; Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian."*

*"Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments. Self-will, that is, self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God."*

Given that Jesus loves us in the same manner that God loves us and that love is the **agape** love, *Jesus is ready and willing to wrap His arms around us as a friend. His arms are spread to welcome us even when there are no other arms extended for us. Jesus knows our every mood, emotion, and trial so He is able to understand and accept us regardless of where we are or what we have done. Jesus knows. He truly is our friend.*

## ~Devotion~

### Well Done

+His feet bleeding from open blisters, and his hands and legs cramping almost beyond endurance, a young man reached the end of a three-day, 65-mile march. He carried 125 pounds of gear, slept no more than four hours a night, and had just enough food for two and a half meals. He had struggled his way through all kinds of obstacles both day and night. Yet, he had one more major challenge: to climb the rugged mountain in front of him.

He forced his mind to ignore the pain and focus on the goal, whispered a prayer to his Lord, and with all his remaining strength, began to climb. His body was pushed to the breaking point, yet still he climbed. At last, he reached the top and the moment he had been waiting for arrived. He had made it through the crucible.

The crucible is the last test a recruit must pass in Marine boot camp. It tests him physically, mentally and morally. The young recruits learn quickly that they must rely on one another to solve the problems and overcome the obstacles they are faced with. No one gets through it alone. Although at times it seems impossible to go on, the anticipation of the reward compels them forward.

At the top of the mountain, their drill instructor awaits them. Upon arrival, he presents these young recruits with their Marine Corps insignia - eagle, globe, and anchor; then shakes their hands and for the first time addresses them as Marines. Our grandson experienced this November 5, 2010, and as his drill instructor shook his hand he said, "I'm proud of you Wilkenson." I'm not sure there are any words to describe the emotion our grandson felt at that moment, but this is one ceremony that moves even Marines to tears.

At times, we as God's children can feel like we are in a spiritual crucible. The attacks of our enemy are vicious and brutal, often coming without warning. The journey seems long and full of obstacles and problems that we can't deal with alone. Although we know our Lord has promised to be with us and to never give us more than we can bear, like these young recruits, we feel pushed beyond our limits.

The Marine Corps is turning young, inexperienced, undisciplined men and women into Marines. This is no easy task. It involves problems, challenges, pain, suffering, deprivation, and change. It takes determination and commitment on the part of the recruit to stick it out. The goal set before him motivates him to continue. He wants to be a Marine.

Our Lord is conforming us to His image ([Romans 8:28-29](#)). This too involves problems, challenges, pain, suffering, loss, and many changes throughout our lives. Commitment and discipline are required if we are to finish the course our Lord has set before us. We must yield our will to His, and in submissive obedience follow our Commander, just like those young recruits.

Our reward, however, will be much greater than receiving the Marine Insignia. We will receive crowns of glory from the nail-scarred hands of Jesus Christ, our Savior. The emotion in the young recruit as he heard his drill sergeant say he was proud of him was overwhelming. But can you imagine how we will feel when we stand face to face with Jesus and hear Him say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant"? ([Matthew 25:21,23](#))

We have one gigantic advantage over these young recruits. Our Commander is Almighty God and He goes with us giving us strength, guidance, and comfort on our journey. Therefore, let us determine with joy and anticipation even as Paul did, to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus ([Philippians 3:14](#)). We can do it!

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ([Philippians 4:13](#) NKJV)

..... Sandra Hastings – [www/cbn.com/devotions](http://www/cbn.com/devotions)

## ~Board Minutes~

The Board of BCC met January 5, 2020. Starley Stell, the new chairman, called the meeting to order. Gerald Morris opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes were read and approved. Jamie Barnhill presented the treasurer's report which was accepted as presented. The chairman distributed the serving schedule of Elders and Deacons. Members were reminded to use the Post Office number when sending mail to the church. The mail is not always delivered when only the street address is used.

### OLD BUSINESS

The election of the slate of officers was completed. The new slate is: CHAIRMAN – Starley Stell; VICE CHAIRMAN – Gerald Morris; SECRETARY – June Wallace; TREASURER – Jamie Barnhill. Starley and Gerald will appoint the committees.

Becky Tuten suggested an orientation of new board members and in the future the orientation would be held before election.

The chairman welcomed Alex Shreve in her new position as Youth Director. She will work twenty hours per week.

As discussed at the January meeting Claude motioned to set \$428 to cover the insurance of the Youth Director as requested. The motion was seconded by Pearson and was approved by the board.

Alex Shreve gave a synopsis of the organization of the youth program. Gerald stressed that the early organization of the summer Bible School program is extremely important. Alex stated that she was looking forward to developing the program. She suggested that Bible School be held August 3-6.

She will check on schedules of surrounding churches and will coordinate with them.

The installation of a walk-in shower at the parsonage report: Leon reported that he had talked with Danny Gonzalez who gave a figure in the range of \$6500: includes ceramic tile. Approval was given to proceed with the project. Reeves will contact Danny.

New locks have been installed at the front doors.

Study of security system will continue. Billy motioned to establish a permanent security team.

Gerald seconded the motion. Approved.

Discussion of "Flock Program"- Howard asked for thoughts on this program. Jim gave one possibility of breaking into smaller groups. No decisions were

made following discussion. More thought will be given this program.

### NEW BUSINESS

Jamie requested that a Financial Committee be appointed. Such committee will be appointed when Starley and Gerald meet.

Heating of church - On behalf of many Becky Tuten requested an increase in the heat temperature on Sunday mornings. Will be tried.

Gerald asked to allow Darrel Smith to submit a bid for trash collection. This possibility will be investigated.

Minister's Remarks: Visits made – 42: Bible Study to begin February 3: Regional Assembly – April 17 -19 at Camp Caroline: Three delegates are needed.

Larry dismissed the meeting with prayer.

June Wallace  
Secretary

## *Today I Will:*

- 1) *Be Thankful*
- 2) *SEE the Good in Others*
- 3) *Trust God's Ways*
- 4) *Have Hope*
- 5) *Go out of my way to Bless someone.*

..... [holisticism.com](http://holisticism.com)

~CMF~

The CMF of Bath Christian Church met Wednesday February 5, 2020 with Leon Wingate presiding and 16 in attendance. Present were J. Cullen, J. Barnhill, L. Wingate, L. Schmitt, B. Hill, C. Cartwright, R. Smith, G. Heath, R. Winstead, H. Robertson, D. Adams, G. Morris, J. Burgess, C. Dupree, B. Norman and P. McRoy.

Cooks for the evening meal were Wingate, Schmitt and Hill. Hog stew, sides and desserts. Great meal. Thanks given to the cooks.

Business Meeting  
--Tub from parsonage available for anyone who would like it  
--Discussed a family in Vanceboro, awaiting more information  
--Cook schedule for March thru September 2020 set  
--Cook schedule posted in kitchen  
--Cooks for March meeting will be Dupree, Norman and Adams

Prayer concerns were discussed. Dr. Robertson prayed for each mentioned.

Doc then gave the devotion. He started out reading a poem by Ernest Crosby of which a portion states "no one can tell me where my soul should be". How great it would be to be on the summit and see one you have led to Christ. Be the example of Christ. Paul tells us to bear with the failings of the weak, lift them up. Live in harmony with one another. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Billy Hill Recorder

~March Schedules~

**Greeter Schedule:**



- March 1 Joyce Aydlett
- March 8 Mary Lynn Edwards
- March 15 Terry Everett
- March 22 Beau Norman
- March 29 Brenda Godley

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**Flower Schedule:**



- March 1 Joan & Pearson Chrismon
- March 8 Linda, Nelda & Jimmy Gaylord
- March 15 Jeannie, Dale, & Terry Woolard
- March 22 Brenda & Vernon Godley
- March 29 Darlene Ormond

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**Nursery Schedule:**



- March 1 Alex & Don Shreve
- March 8 Jessie Brooks & LaDonna Younger
- March 15 Barbara & Gerald Morris
- March 22 Kandice & Billy Dean
- March 29 Rachel & Cliff Jordan

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

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**Children's Moment Schedule:**



- March 1 Ellen Heck
- March 8 Marcia Norman
- March 15 Kids of God's World
- March 22 John LaCava
- March 29 Barbara Morris

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## Serving Schedule:

March 1

Elders: G. Morris & H. Robertson  
Deacon of Wk: G. Morris & B. McRoy  
Deacons: B. McRoy, B. Norman  
L. Schmitt, B. Dean

March 8

Elders: H. Robertson & S. Stell  
Deacon of Wk: H. Robertson & B. Tuten  
Deacons: B. Tuten, D. Woolard  
L. Woolard, D. Adams

March 15

Elders: S. Stell & L. Wingate  
Deacon of Wk: S. Stell & C. Cartwright  
Deacons: C. Cartwright, P. Chrismon,  
B. Dean, E. Gurganus

March 22

Elders: L. Wingate & J. Barnhill  
Deacon of Wk: L. Wingate & L. Gurganus  
Deacons: L. Gurganus, B. McRoy  
B. Norman, L. Schmitt

March 29

Elders: J. Barnhill & C. Dupree  
Deacon of Wk: J. Barnhill & R. Smith  
Deacons: R. Smith, B. Tuten  
D. Woolard, L. Woolard

## ~Announcements~

March 8<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Begins – turn clocks forward one hour.

Reminder: When sending mail to the church please use our PO Box 300 instead of 107 S. Harding St. We have experienced mail being returned that does not have our PO # on it. Thanks for your attention to this.

Please make the church secretary aware of church directory changes.

## Eagles Wings

Eagles Wings food pantry is still accepting nonperishable donations. Supplies were depleted during the holiday season. There are labeled baskets in the Fellowship Hall and both vestibules. 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.

## Things Money Can't Buy:

1. Manners
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common Sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Love

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**Some days  
you just  
have to create  
your own  
sunshine.**

.....hikendip.com



**Prayer Requests : Church Family Prayer Concerns:**

Bill Bertram; Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith & Michael Corless; Ann Cullen; Bill Cutler; Bobby Drake; Neal Duncan; Marian Everett; Pete Fell; Marie Gonzalez; Beverly & John Holt; Jackie Mullen; Marcia Norman, Carol Richardson; Gary Sheppard; Beverly & Ron Tincher, caregivers & Unspoken Requests.

**Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:** Olivia Armstrong & her mother Lee; Jane Bass; Pastor Bob Bauman (Josh Swindell's minister); Rickie Bause; Mark & Mary Scott Baver, Frankie Black; Vera Boseman; Judy Boyd; Susan Boyd; Barbara Britt; Roy Buck; Virginia Chrismon, John Conway; Ella Mae Copeland; Evan Cornelius; Colt Cowell; Bill Crump; Anthony Cutler; Glenda Douglas; Sylvester Ebersson; George Elliott; Deborah Everette, 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; Billy Ivey; Vickie Jessen; Sheila Cox Jones; John Kelly; Sue Kemmer; Bo Kilpatrick; Linwood Lewis; Ronnie Martin; Barbara Mason; Carol McRoy; Allison Mills; Josh Moye; Alvin Norman; Gladys Owens; Emily Page; Mike Painter; Wilson Paul; Brian Peele; Ray Pippin; Joyce Pitt; Larry Poore; Brandi Robbins; Wendy Rouse; Larry Rowe (CT's friend); Dean Sheppard; Tim Shreve; Betty Slade; Jackie Smith; Michael Spencer; Raymond Spencer; Don Steffa; Leonard Sullivan; Susie Swinson; Sonya & Roger Tuning; Annette Tuten; Heather Van Staalduinen; Becky Sheppard Waters; Faye Waters; Ronnie Watson; Betty Wilson; Ina Wingate; Miranda Woolard; Wendy Woolard; Jim Worthington; teenagers throughout the world; students, teachers & families; & Unspoken Requests.

The families of Amy Lynn Woolard Brooks, Rex Deffenbaugh, Vicki Dotson, Allie Faye Ivey, Mack Hodges, Sr., Beth Rodgers, Baby Asher Sheets, Jo Smith, Rev. Perry Turner.

**Military Prayer List:**

Jim Bass, Blane Boyd, Chase Brooks, Zack Cook, Timm Cox, Will Cutler, Zack Davis, 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 April newsletter by  
9:00 am Tuesday, March 24th. Thank you!  
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362  
or via email: [jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com](mailto:jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com). OR  
[secretary@bathchristianchurch.com](mailto:secretary@bathchristianchurch.com)**