



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 August

Summer is winding down and a new school year looms on the horizon. This school year will be different from all of our previous school years. This year we are still contending with the issues of education while protecting our children and educators from the spread of the Covid 19 viral infection. We are faced with a dizzying array of options and hybrid schedules of online and in person classroom education. Each school district and all parents are trying to pick the right combination with the least risk for their situation.

Not only in the academic world, but it seems that in every area of our life, we are facing chaos and confusion. This constant barrage of panic and uncertainty engenders fear. Fear is the tool of Satan. Satan has found the winning combination to push us into submission due to fear.

Many of the people in the world today no longer believe in or even accept that there is a God. They have allowed science (and in some cases confusing science), world leaders, or loud voices to dominate their lives and thus there is no anchor point during chaotic times. Fear becomes the motivation of all our actions.

Somewhere, I recently read that the Bible tells us 365 times not to fear. I can assure you that I have not spent my time counting the times we are told not to fear in the Bible. However, I will mention a few here for our consideration. During this pandemic, I have read and heard many pointing to the 91st Psalm. There are some similarities found in this psalm and our present situation. To be sure, we see that serving God brings God’s protection and care.

In the first few verses, the psalmist speaks of being delivered from the evils when we live in the shadow of God. **He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!” For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. (Psalm 91:1-3 NASB)**

The next verse presents an image that is also found in Matthew. In Matthew, Jesus looks over the city of Jerusalem and laments their rejection with these words:

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. (Matthew 23:37 NASB)

The image of a mother hen gathering her chicks under a protective wing is the same image found in Psalm 91 when we read about God’s protection.

**He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. (Psalm 91:4 NASB)**

This idea of protection continues throughout this psalm as we are promised angelic protection when we seek refuge in God.

For you have made the LORD, my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:9-11 NASB)

Does this mean that we will never get sick or have anything harmful happen to us if we serve God? Of course not. It does mean that God will be with us through all of the trials that we face. God will see us through each and every situation.

John summed it up very well in his first letter and chapter four.

(Continued next page)

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (1 John 4:16-18 NASB)

When we live in the love of God, we live without fear. In these uncertain times, we need to find that anchor point in God's love. We need to find a means of dispelling fear from our lives. We need to live without fear for our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us.

For our children, we need to find some way to regain a normal and sustainable routine. We must find life without fear so that we may be the assurance that our children need. That calm assurance is only found in God. The perfect love of God that drives out fear.

Issue - August 2020

~Devotion~

Speak Well of Others

“The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil” (Proverbs 15:28).

In this age of Internet and social media, gone are the days of the off-switch for dialogue. Time was, conversations ended. Then, with the birth of online discussion forums, they could continue indefinitely (with every word preserved for all to see). Now that we are chained to mobile devices, the debates and exchanges never even have to pause. We may start them at our computers, but we continue them in the elevator...in the car...during dinner. Even during real-life banter with friends and family, fingers fly over smartphones to contribute thoughts to the discourse of the Internet world.

It's hard to step back once you get used to it. I find it to be a very love-hate thing; bittersweet for several reasons. On the one hand, I am completely amazed and delighted by the ability to connect, share, grow, and learn that modern technology provides. On the other hand, the ability to tear apart an opponent with the stroke of a key makes certain biblical mandates that much harder to follow.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” (James 1:9).

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Colossians 4:6).

I believe that graciousness of speech, speaking well of others (even my enemy or opponent) is something God requires of me. As someone who rarely shies away from conversation or confrontation, every day is a battle for me in this regard. I find myself asking.

Is this a hill to die on?
Is this going to change this person's mind?
Is it even my job to change this person's mind?
Is this loving? Worth the fuss? Compassionate?

More times than not, recently, I've begun to type up a facebook comment only to delete it before pressing "post". Not because I changed my stance or re-thought my opinion. Rather, because words don't die on the World Wide Web – and I have no second chance at a first impression. Perhaps the fewer cold, impersonal words I type into Facebook in the midst of an argument, the fewer tempers will be lost, fewer hearts will hurt, and fewer friends will feel annoyed, alone, or attacked. Perhaps the more I distance myself from the social media circus, the more I can pay attention to the flesh-and-blood conversation that might arise over the dinner table or on the train. Perhaps the less I scroll through Facebook, the more chances I'll have to look into people's faces and eyes.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:22-27).

Intersecting Faith and Life: Before you post anything today on Twitter, Facebook, or Google +, weigh your words carefully. Do they provoke edifying discussion, or simply anger? Do your words match up with the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23?)

By Debbie Holloway – Crosswalk.com

~Announcements~

August Schedules~

The Greeter, Nursery, Children's Moment and Serving Schedules will not be printed again until we can enjoy worshipping together without the fear of spreading the coronavirus.



Flower Schedule:

August 2 Nancy & Howard Robertson
August 9 Betty & Larry Schmitt
August 16 Sarah Stone
August 23 Carolyn Fisher
August 30 Margaret Midyette

August Birthdays

August 7 Shilo Smith
Charlie Woolard
August 9 Morey Everett
August 11 Gerald Heath
Wallace Selby
August 15 Crystal Woolard
August 16 Bobbie Sanderson
August 17 Ella Mae Smith
Dianne Wingate
August 19 Hilda McLawhorn
August 20 Becky McRoy
August 21 Reid Courson
August 23 Terry Everett
August 25 Polly Gurganus
August 26 Charles Clark
August 28 Curby Clark
August 29 Lesley Woolard
August 31 Sandra Dupree

Church Opening

We opened our sanctuary for Sunday morning services at 10:00am on June 7, 2020. We have practiced social distancing in entering, seating, interacting with one another and leaving.

Vulnerable populations have been encouraged to stay home for their own safety.

At the present time we are offering only the 10:00am service, NO Sunday school. We'll plan to phase in other church functions as the coronavirus levels down (or out) and following state and national guidelines.

Church Website

A reminder to check the church's website bathchristianchurch.com for our pastor's midweek messages and Sunday sermons. Also, our Youth Director, Alex Shreve, is posting weekly bible messages including up to date information about youth activities beneficial to our youth and their families.

Church Calendar

The church calendar for August, 2020 is not attached since all activities are currently cancelled. We will print the calendar again when normal activities resume.

Church Fall Bazaar

Plans are underway to conduct our annual church bazaar November 21, 2020. All ideas, suggestions, are welcome. More information will follow.

Albemarle District Meeting

The Albemarle District Meeting will be hosted by Bath Christian Church on Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30pm. We plan to serve a chicken salad cold plate with soft drink or water. To adequately prepare we are asking attendees to preregister and prepay for the meal at a cost of \$7. Leon Wingate is contact person.

Eagles Wings

Mark Aydlett is continuing to place the Eagles Wings basket outside the Fellowship Hall daily. Thanks for continuing to support this worthy and needy cause but recently we have seen a decline in contributions. Your nonperishable items are greatly needed as Eagles Wings is experiencing a spike in new clients during the coronavirus outbreak and a lot of families are without income. Monetary gifts are also needed but do not leave cash in the basket. Checks are accepted made payable to Eagles Wings. There is still a need for plastic grocery bags. Bags can be placed in the basket along with other items.

Washington Women's Bible Study

The next WWBS (Washington Women's Bible Study) will begin October 7 and end November 18. This fall's study is on 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Registration instructions will come later. If you have questions contact Jane Stokes 923-7111.

Please make the church secretary aware of church directory additions/changes including birthdate (month/day).

**Everyone
smiles in
the same
Language**

Saudos.com

*We've learned to fly the air
like birds,
we've learned to swim the seas
like fish,
And yet we haven't learned to
walk the
Earth as brothers and sisters.....*

Martin Luther King

**"A flower
does not think
of competing
to the flower
next to it, it just
Blooms."**

Lifehack.org



Prayer Requests : **Church Family Prayer Concerns:**
Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith
& Michael Corless; Bill Cutler; Peggy
Davis; Neal Duncan; C. T. Dupree;
Marian Everett; Liz & Pete Fell; Beverly & John Holt;
Jackie Mullen; Harold Ormond; Carol Richardson;
Gary Sheppard; Beverly & Ron Tincher, caregivers &
Unspoken Requests.

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns: Jane and
Mike Baker; Jane Bass; Judy Boyd; Susan Boyd;
Tilman Carter; Virginia Chrismon; John Conway;
Anthony Cutler; Sylvester Eberson; Cleve Edwards;
Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris Gibbs; Gail Gibbs;
Larry Green; Pauline Gurganus; Edith Guy; Chris
Harris; Hunter Hasty; Mike Isbell; Sue Kemmer;
Linwood Lewis; Gladys Owens; Mavis Owens; Mike
Painter; Wilson Paul; Brian Peele; Cynthia Pendleton;
Stephanie Sabbra; Glenda Scott; Dean Sheppard; Alice
Smith; Raymond Spencer; Don Steffa; Bonnie Swain;
Susie Swinson; Melisa Thompson, Sonya & Roger
Tuning; Faye Waters; Margaret Ann Woolard; Wendy
Woolard; teenagers throughout the world, those affected
by the coronavirus & **Unspoken Requests.**

The families of: Barbara Barr; Doug Cutler; Steve
Douglas; Betsy Gaskins; Sherry Glancy; Jackie Haddock;
Dana Hambleton; Mack Harris; Betty Swaim Ives;
Christopher Koumaris; Gregory Leggett; Susan
McWhirter; Jo Maxson; Heather "Boo" Sawyer; Doris
Toler; M.D. Weatherington; George Webster.

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: Dorothy Mathews, Bob Miller.

Please submit news to me
for the September newsletter by
9:00 am Thursday, August 20th. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com