



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 October

As I sit here writing this article, I notice the map of the Atlantic Basin on the National Hurricane Center show seven areas of concern. There are four named storms and three areas that have the potential for developing into named storms. That number of weather systems has not been seen in the Atlantic Basin since 1971. Those of us who live near the east coast of the United States and those living near the gulf coast know the problems presented by these storms. Much destruction is visited on communities when the strong winds, torrential rains, and storm surge move through the region.

This is one of the active seasons. We will soon deplete the 21 names and move into naming the storms with letters from the Greek alphabet. This has not happened since 2005. The active storms season coupled with the worldwide pandemic, the spate of fires in the northwestern states, the rash of violence in many major cities, and earthquakes in areas that are not prone to seismic activity have many people questioning the end of time as described in the Bible.

Many people read in Matthew the 24th chapter the following passage and start to fit current events into the passage. **You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs. (Matthew 24:6-8 NASB)**

Those who have had an opportunity to talk with me realize that I am skeptical of our ability to pre-determine the date of the eschatological events. My skepticism is based on the words of Jesus which are found just a few verses down from the passage cited above.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (Matthew 24:35-36 NASB)

In other places in the Bible we are told that it would be as a thief in the night. The truth is, we will see certain signs but we will never be able to pinpoint the exact timing of the end of this world.

There is a reason. God expects us to choose to live our life following His will at all times. It is not a choice to live opposed to God until the last day and then change. Our fascination with the end of times really serves no purpose. In fact, if we continue to read in Matthew, we find a series of parables concerning the need to be ready at all times. The first speaks of an evil servant who beats other servants and carouses with bad people because the lord delayed. Jesus warns: **the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know, (Matthew 24:50 NASB)** the punishment is swift and certain.

The second is the parable about the virgins awaiting the bridegroom. We recall that five were ready and five were not prepared so they were excluded (Matthew 25:1-13).

The third parable deals with servants who were entrusted with money while the master was away. Two of the three were busy doing the things which were normal. They worked and increased the money. The third basically did nothing and just waited for the returning master. We know that did not work well for him (Matthew 25:14-30).

From these parables, and especially the last one, I see the need to be ready for Jesus to return without being so focused on His return that we fail to the work which He has given us to do. We are not to be lulled into thinking He will never return nor are we to be so fixed on His return that we fail to help His kingdom grow.

Yes, we live in strange times. Yes, each day brings us closer to the day when Jesus will return to claim His church. However, we need to remember that the times are God’s business. Jesus has given us a charge to make disciples. We need to be about that business and allow God to attend to the last days.

~Devotion~

A Crummy Lesson

Mrs. Baughman was Sunday School class teacher in my six-grade class. One morning she brought a pan of brownies to our class. As the goodies sat tantalizingly over by her chair, she gave each child a slip of paper marked with a household expense: house payment, electric bill, phone bill, credit card bill, entertainment, and so forth. My slip had car payment written on it.

Before long Mrs. Baughman picked up the tray of fresh brownies and began naming the expenses written on the papers. As we gave her our expenses, she redeemed each one for a brownie. "Car payment!" she announced. I jumped up to get my brownie from the pan. Finally, the last brownie had disappeared. But one boy named Donald still held his unredeemed slip. "God!" called Mrs.

Baughman. Donald came forward hoping the teacher had one more brownie hidden somewhere. With a knife, Mrs. Baughman scraped the crumbs from the bottom of the pan into Donald's napkin. He got a pretty raw deal, I thought—just crumbs. "The brownies represent your money," the teacher explained to us. "If you don't give God his share right away, he probably won't get anything at all, except maybe the crumbs."

We never forgot that illustration from our 6 grade Sunday School. It was the day my friend Donald got only brownie scrapings, and I learned that God should have first rights to everything I have. In the years since Mrs. Baughman's class, I have struggled with giving and priorities. But whenever I recall that "crummy Sunday morning lesson", I know who must come first in my life.

Rivergate Bulletin

*You have such busy days
But don't let it cramp your winning
ways*

*If you receive a word of praise
Pass it on to ensure it stays
If you have an abundance of love
Please pass it on to God above
And blessings you will share*

*When you receive an answer to prayer
Be thankful for each little thing
That fills your lives and makes you
sing*

*Then when you're old and gray
You'll treasure the memories of the by-
gone day.*

By: Dorothy Brooks Tankard (Ms. Dot)

11/5/14 - 12/12/2008

*Anger or hatred is
like a fisherman's
hook. It is very
important for us to
ensure that we are
not caught by it.*

Dalai Lama

~Board Minutes~

The Board of the Bath Christian Church met August 2, 2020 with Staley Stell presiding. C.M. Cartwright opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended. The treasurer's report was approved.

I. Starley covered items of old business that have occurred since March.

- March 19 – Elders meeting to plan upcoming schedules
- March 21 – All services cancelled
- June 7 - Started Bible study in youth meetings in Fellowship Hall.
- Leak in right side vestibule has been repaired.
- Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and bathrooms have been painted at a cost of \$2500.
- Wade has cleaned all woodwork in Fellowship Hall.
- A separating wall has been installed in the storage building behind the parsonage.
- Camera for videoing services has been procured.
- Microphones have been updated with all being interchangeable.

2. NEW BUSINESS

1. Fifth Sunday singing for August has been cancelled.
2. August 11 District meeting cancelled.
3. Scholarship Committee announced that 2 students have been awarded the Harold Tyer scholarships. They are Lexie Clark and Emily Gurganus.
4. The Worship Committee has recommended that the Revival and Homecoming be cancelled for this year. A motion to approve the recommendation of the committee was made by Larry Schmitt with a second by Claude Dupree. The recommendation was approved.

5. Discussion continued concerning live streaming the church services. In order to accomplish this a new camera and sound board will be needed. McFaden Music has given a bid of \$7290.96 for all equipment needed. A motion was made by Gerald Morris with a second by Jamie Barnhill to purchase from McFaden and was approved by the board.
6. The Youth Director provided a written report of Youth activities and plans for upcoming events. Produce sales at Farmer's Market have been successful.
7. In other items Leon Wingate suggested adding bulletins, responsive reading, Lord's Prayer, and having Elders prayer for communion. The Minister and Worship Committee will discuss this suggestion.

3. MINISTER'S REPORT

1. The minister's report showed visitations by phone instead of in home. In June 113 calls were made and 109 calls made in July.
2. He indicated that on-line services and devotionals have increased the work load.
3. After some discussions about changing the internet server from Centurylink to Riverstreet. Claude Dupree made a motion to switch our internet service from Centurylink to Riverstreet at a monthly cost of \$83.00 +tax. Barry Norman seconded the motion which was approved.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Dick Adams.

Minutes by Leon Wingate

The Good News - October 2020

Page 3

~October Schedules~

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



Flower Schedule:

October 4 Christian Women's Fellowship
October 11 Peggy Davis
October 18 Barbara & Bill Sanderson
October 25 Mary Lynn Edwards

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Nursery (Little Lion Class) Schedule:

October 4 Lexi Clark – Teacher
Darlene Ormond – Aide
October 11 Lexi Clark – Teacher
Sandra Dupree – Aide
October 18 Lexi Clark – Teacher
Cynthia Stell – Aide
October 25 Lexi Clark – Teacher
Linda Heath – Aide

October Birthdays

October 2 Karen Modlin
October 4 Leon Norman
October 6 Nancy Hill
Harold Ormond, Jr.
October 8 Alex Jordan
October 10 Malissa Waters Griekspoor
Steven Williams
October 11 Boots Venters
October 13 Harriett Stell
October 14 Larry Schmitt
October 16 Marcia Norman
October 18 Willa Dean
October 20 Bill Bertram
October 22 Eunice Robbins
Patty Selby
October 23 Debbie Smith
Alice Wingate
October 24 John Jordan
October 30 Reeves Smith
October 31 Nicholas Jordan

~Announcements~

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. To our knowledge we have not had any COVID-19 issues. We encourage everyone who feels safe in the modified service to consider rejoining us.

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. Our Nursery (Little Lion Class) was sanitized and reopened October 4th with Lexi Clark Teacher and volunteers assisting. Proper cleaning protocol is in place before and after each service. The Youth have relocated from the Fellowship Hall back to the Annex Wing. Other church functions will be phased in 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 bible messages including up to date information about youth activities beneficial to our youth and their families.

Church Calendar

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

Congregational Meeting

There will be a short congregational meeting immediately following the morning worship service on October 11, 2020. At that time there will be a report from the Nominating Committee for 2021. Members are encouraged to be present for this important meeting.

Eagles Wings

The Eagles Wings basket is located outside the Fellowship Hall daily. Thanks for continuing to support this worthy and needy cause as we have recently 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. The building that houses Eagles Wings recently experienced a lightning strike that hit the HVAC system which they are having to replace. Checks are accepted made payable to Eagles Wings. There is still a need for plastic grocery bags which can be placed in the basket along with other items.

Church Fall Bazaar

For the last 60 plus years, Bath Christian Church has presented a fall Bazaar, enjoyed by many. This Bazaar has become another victim of the virus pandemic. There will be no fall bazaar this year.

But we plan to make next year's event bigger and better. If you are a crafter, go ahead and begin crafting now so we will have double the items for next year. If you are a canner, and you don't share the things you have already canned this year, there can be a little stockpile for next year. This is a good time to clean out closets and attics and garages to prepare for next year's yard sale. Claudia has a barn where yard sale items can be stored. Whatever your skill or preference of things to help with a bazaar, be planning or working on items now.

If you do not like to "make" things, be on the lookout for ideas for next year. Craft ideas are always needed. Search your magazines and catalogs; whenever you visit a shop, jot down ideas; and, go online to look for ideas. Everyone can do something to help.

One young woman, who has been visiting our bazaar for some 30 years, asked about the date. When told it would not be happening this year, her reaction was, "Oh, no!! the Bazaar is a tradition. It has to happen." Yes, the Bazaar is a tradition, but there are no rules that say there cannot be a pause in a tradition, and that is what this year is – a pause. Our church has worked really hard to protect our church members, and we want to do the same for our friends.

Stay safe, and visit our Bazaar in 2021 – bigger and better!!

Claudia Alligood

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).

Updates:

Linda & James Shively, 6000 River Rd, Unit 4, Washington, NC 27889.

Marcia & Beau Norman – New landline – 252-765-1171

Christy Drake, 118 Broadhurst Rd., Apt. 666, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

**It doesn't matter
if the glass is
half empty or half full....
Be grateful that
you have a glass
and there's something in it.**

Lifehack.org

**Don't let the noise
of the world
keep you from
hearing the voice
of the Lord**

Thewhitebuffalostyling.com

Live in
such a
way that
if someone
spoke badly
of you
no one would
Believe it.

Lifehack.org

*A child's laugh could
simply be one of the
most beautiful sounds
in the world.*

Facebook.com



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

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

The families of: Helen Abrecht, Jean Baldwin, Lois Bell,
Rae Biggs, LouAnn Cameron, Lanie Cox, Dirk Dixon, Sr.,
Rev. Fred Fordham, Celia Harding, Donald Jensen, Jr.,
Lorraine Linton, Biff Matthews, Maureen Moran, Claudia
Mutherspaw, Braxton O'Neal, Sr., Chris Pake,
Reba Powell, Lou Powers, John Ratcliffe,
Doris Rayburn, Grace Rice, Peggy Saba, Gene Schwartz,
LouEllen Brooks Sullivan, Galen Swain, Robin Terry,
Linwood Earl Thurman, Juanita Tripp, Olivia Webb,
James Earl Weiland, Larry Woolard.

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 November newsletter by
9:00 am Friday, October 23rd. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com