



## 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 December

As I sit and ponder the coming Christmas season, I have already begun to frame this year’s Advent Series. This year we will approach the birth of Jesus with a spirit of joy. The theme for Advent is “Joy to the World.” The sermon series does not directly reference the song we often hear or sing during the holiday season. It is more a focus on the joy and good news associated with the fact that Jesus came into the world as part of God’s plan. The details of that plan are, at times, obscured by trappings that may have nothing at all to do with the events of that night in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago.

John, in his gospel, tells of the life of Jesus from a different perspective than the other gospels. Rather than starting with angel visits or shepherds; he begins with these words: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp (or overpower) it. (John 1:1-5 NASB)**

Aside from the fact that Jesus is called the Word and the Word is called God, we are told that Jesus is **the Light of mankind**. One significant fact about light is that it overcomes darkness. Jesus is called the light that shines in darkness and the darkness cannot overpower His light.

As I write this article, I was reminded in this morning’s weather segment that tonight we are in the new moon phase so the night time sky will be dark. This will be prime conditions for viewing the Leonid Meteor shower. The little flashes of lights against the dark sky will allow for better chances to see the meteors as they streak across the sky. The light over powers the darkness and not the other way around.

The idea of contrast between dark and light is as old as the earth itself. **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:1-4 NASB)**

From the beginning, God has called for light to expel darkness. The very season of Christmas is one filled with lights. For many of us, we picture scenes of lights reflected and amplified against the snow-covered landscape. The brightness of light helps to lift our spirits. We revel in seeing our friends and neighbors festoon their homes with many lights. All of these displays lift our spirits and increase our joy.

The most magnificent joy we can experience during this season or any other season is the realization that this baby miraculously born to a young couple in the city of David (Bethlehem) came to bring light into a dark world. The light of God’s love revealed in human form. Jesus said: **I have come as Light into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in darkness. (John 12:46 NASB)**

From the beginning, God’s plan was for us to be **rescued from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14 NASB)**

This is the joyous news of the season. God reached out through this tiny baby born and placed in an animal feeding trough. God sent His light into the world so that we might be rescued from darkness into eternal light. Ann and I extend our personal wishes for each and everyone of you to know this joy and to enjoy this Christmas season to the fullest. Our love goes out to you now and always.

## ~Devotion~

### The Kitten on the Front Step

The kitten on the front step appeared one rainy night with no tags, no name, and no home. Our neighborhood is quite small. Houses line the main streets like birds in a perfect line stretched out on a fence post. My friend is my neighbor, my neighbor my friend. Just down the block I can see the top of the magnolia tree that graces the home of the 82-year-old pastor who baptized me when I was a girl. Across the way, my husband's best friend's mother; and down the holler, my aunt, first-grade teacher and the old house with the big attic where my great Aunt Louise used to paint in the '40's.

I know everyone and everyone knows me. Yet, no one knew where the little kitten on the front step came from.

When we found him, his tail shivered from behind our son's favorite red scooter. He looked hungry and boney. I'd seen him pass our house a few times but he was always too afraid to come closer than the bushes where the butterflies gather in the summer and the painted leaves fall down into the holler in autumn. I imagine he'd wandered house to house looking for food. Yet, he was so small no one ever noticed. He'd easily be hidden beneath a few sprigs of grass or a brick-lined border of a flower-bedded mailbox.

Tonight, as our children fed him and stroked his ears, he covered them in gratitude running his tiny little body against their feet. "Oh thank you!" he seemed to say. "Oh thank you! You saved me!" Inside a deep cardboard box, we stuffed in an old down jacket that Emmy had, a few layers of jogging pants, and draped a flannel blanket across the top. He crawled inside instantly. When I poured warm milk into one of Brock's cereal bowls, he lapped it up gratefully before snuggling back into the box. As I lay down in bed tonight, the rest of the world sleeping – including one little, lost kitten who found what he was looking for, God reminds me of the verse.

"Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. Pray without ceasing." Matthew 7:7 (Paraphrasing mine)

House to house to house, we go about searching for what we need. When we are turned away or when we find no room in the inn, we lose heart. But if we are persistent, we will find that thing we so desire. It could be basic needs met, or companionship, the simple smile of a stranger, or the strange coincidence that lets you know that God hasn't forgotten where you are.

As the birth of our Savior rolls around, may your hearts be filled with a spirit made anew. May you carry the mentality of the kitten on the front porch – asking, seeking, knocking – until your miracle answers. And if you don't know this wonderful Savior, may you listen closely for the door of your own heart. For Jesus said,

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20 (KJV)

Never give up. Never stop knocking. If you do, you'll never know that the next door would be the one that opened giving you everything you needed, right when you needed it most.

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*One tree can start  
a forest,  
One smile can begin  
a friendship,  
One hand can lift a soul,  
One word can  
frame the goal,  
One candle can  
wipe out darkness,  
One laugh can  
conquer gloom,  
One touch can  
show you care,  
One life can make  
the difference.  
Be that one today.*

Real talk with matty

## **DID YOU KNOW THIS?**

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves are the OLD and NEW Testaments. - Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love. - The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ... the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation .... -Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit --Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. -The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. –The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. MERRY CHRISTMAS!! Yes, I said MERRY CHRISTmas because Christmas is not without CHRIST!

Unknown ...from Facebook

## *~Board Minutes~*

The Board of Bath Christian Church met September 13, 2020 with Starley Stell, Chairman, presiding. Barry Norman opened the meeting with prayer. Alex Shreve, Youth Director, reported the activities and plans for the Youth Program. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Jamie Barnhill gave the treasurer's monthly and the quarterly reports.

Becky Tuten motioned to approve the reports as presented. Barry Norman seconded the motion which was approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Scholarship Committee –
  - a. The Youth Director will be added to the Scholarship Committee.
  - b. The committee will meet and make recommendations to clarify a questionable item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Bazaar – The Board agreed to forgo the bazaar for 2020.
2. Starley asked for suggestions to improve the attendance for the morning worship. A letter will be sent to members of the congregation to explain the positive safety measures in place.
3. October 11, 2020 – Annual Congregational Meeting.
4. Jamie will talk to Jimmy Latham again concerning the repair needed on the street.
5. Reimbursement will be given to Lexie Clark for supplies for the nursery.
6. Leon suggested the use of the spray in the nursery that is used by Serve-Pro which is less toxic.
7. Representing the nominating committee, Leon presented the slate of Elders and Deacons for the next year.

**ELDERS:** Jamie Barnhill, CM  
Cartwright, Gerald Morris, Howard  
Robertson, Starley Stell, Leon  
Wingate

**DEACONS:** Mark Aydlett, Pearson  
Chrismon, Louis Gurganus, Gerald  
Heath, John Jordan, Becky McRoy,  
Barry Norman, Reeves Smith, Becky  
Tuten, Leslie Woolard:

**JUNIOR DEACON:** Charlie  
Woolard

**TRUSTEES:** Rodney Bowen,  
Pearson Chrismon, Leon Wingate

June Wallace, Secretary

## CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met in the Fellowship Hall on November 17, 2020 for a called meeting. There were sixteen ladies present: Alice Wingate, June Wallace, Nancy Hill, Betty Schmitt, Jessie Brooks, Linda Heath, Nancy Robertson, Rachel Jordan, Marcia Norman, Debbie Smith, Claudia Alligood, Joyce Aydlett, Nelda Ormond, Barbara Morris and Cynthia Stell. Barbara presided and opened with prayer. The offering was collected and a prayer was given by Barbara. Nelda gave the treasurer's report.

Business:

Rachel read a letter that will be mailed to Camp Caroline stating that the Bath Christian Church is relinquishing sponsorship of the Slaymaker Cottage. Claudia seconded. Carried.

A Nominating Committee for officers for the upcoming year was appointed by Barbara. The committee members are Joyce, Betty and Debbie.

A Budget Committee for the upcoming year was appointed by Barbara. The committee members are: Rachel, Claudia, Marcia and Nelda.

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

Joyce moved that St. Thomas Backpack Program receive their monies. Rachel seconded. Carried.

The next CWF meeting will be on December 8, 2020 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am.

On December 12, 2020 the CWF will have a Christmas Goodies and Desserts Drive-Thru in the church parking lot. The hours are 9:00 am – 12:00.

We will have desserts, canned goods etc. Please "Drive Thru" to support us on that day.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Stell

***Put your  
worries in  
a bubble  
and blow  
them away.***

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

## ~December 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.**

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### **Flower Schedule:**

December 6 Advent

December 13 Advent

December 20 Advent

December 27 Advent

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### **Nursery (Little Lion's Class) Schedule:**

December 6 Lexi Clark – Teacher  
Ronnie Gilbertson – Assistant

December 13 Lexi Clark – Teacher  
Rachel Jordan – Assistant

December 20 Lexi Clark – Teacher  
Kandice Dean – Assistant

December 27 Lexi Clark – Teacher  
Jessie Brooks – Assistant

***Laundry  
is the only  
thing that  
should be  
separated by  
colour***

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

## December Birthdays

December 2 Alex Shreve  
December 3 Michael Godley  
December 4 John Burgess  
December 5 Gray Woolard  
December 9 Joe Heck  
Becky Tuten  
December 10 Ellen Heck  
December 14 Bill Cutler  
Todd Morris  
December 17 Marc Myers  
December 19 Julie Crawford  
December 23 Janet Courson  
Rick Tee  
Roger Winstead  
December 24 Dale Woolard  
December 27 Abby Woolard  
December 29 Jean Winstead

## ~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's Class) was sanitized and reopened October 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://bathchristianchurch.com) for our pastor's midweek messages and Sunday sermons. **Our 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services are currently being live-streamed.** Our Youth Director, Alex Shreve, is posting bible messages including beneficial information about youth activities .

## Church Calendar

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

## 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.

## **TIS THE SEASON.....**

To have a Christmas goodies sale! And boy do our church ladies know how to make and bake! At the recent CWF meeting it was decided to have a Christmas "Goodies" Sale on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 to 12 noon in the church parking lot. You will be able to drive in, park, and browse our tables of goodies or if you prefer to stay in your car, we can take your requests when you arrive and deliver your purchases to your vehicle.

All of us have truly missed our bazaar this year and hopefully this will give everyone an opportunity to prepare for the Christmas holidays by making and/or buying some baked and canned goods. Some of our church ladies have already been busy with summer and fall canning of beets, pickles, relishes, jellies, etc. These will be for sale along with cakes, pies, cookies, pumpkin rolls, candies, etc. Please contact Nancy Bunch (252) 945-7052 to make the labels for your goodies. We will collect all your canned and baked items on Thursday Dec. 10 and Friday Dec. 11. **Please do not deliver anything to the church before that time.** There will be someone available at the church to receive your items at the fellowship hall door during set hours [to be announced later] during those two days.

We know what talented bakers and canners we have in our church and we invite and encourage **ALL** women of the church to help with this outreach effort by providing your scrumptious baked or canned goods for this sale just as you have been doing for our bazaar. We need your help with baking goodies and assisting with selling at the tables and car deliveries during the sale. So please mark your calendars and help make this day a joyous one during this special holiday season.

Joyce Aydlett (252) 714-2783  
Nancy Hill (252) 402-7388

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

### **Updates:**

Pete Fell, Autumn Field, PO Box 459, Belhaven, NC 27810.

*No One ever  
injured their  
eyesight by  
looking on the  
bright side.*

medium.com

**Spread love  
everywhere you go  
let no one ever come  
to you without  
leaving happier.**

Mother Teresa



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

**Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:** Jane Bass;  
Susan Boyd; Tony 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; Chris Harris; Hunter Hasty; Mike Isbell;  
Billy Jefferson; Sue Kemmer; Linwood Lewis; Jamie  
Locklear; Mae Morgan; Mavis Owens; Mike Painter;  
Wilson Paul; Brian Peele; Linda Poore; Stephanie  
Sabbra; Dean Sheppard; 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:** Ellen Allen, Norman Allen, William A.  
Arnold, Christopher Baldwin, Barbara Batchler, Billy  
Baynor, Sr., Ruby Beard, Ray Bergevin, Rachel  
Bridgeman, Myrna Cadwell, David Carver, Gwennyth  
Causin, Ed Cherry, Sr., Mark Cullen, Betty Cutler, Sylvia  
Cutler, Eddie Edwards, Willie "Snoochie" Edwards,  
Elizabeth Eldridge, James Force, Julius Foster, Jo Anne  
Gregg, Mike Hardy, Gail Jefferson, Norman Koestline,  
Michael Malloy, Linda Mills, Aubrey Moore, Gladys  
Owens, Cynthia Pendleton, Jimmy Price, Susan Reid,  
Dorothy Harris Respass, Elouise Respass, Ottis Sheppard,  
Linda Strader, Carolyn Walker, Gerald Wayne 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:** Pete Fell, Bob Miller.

**Please submit news to me  
for the January newsletter by  
9:00 am Monday, December 14th. 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)**