



## 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 April

Last year, as many were preparing for the various Easter celebrations, we faced a sharp curtailment of our ability to gather together due to a new strain of respiratory virus known as Covid-19. Since that time, we have witnessed many of our friends and family either contracting this disease or succumbing to a virus that prior to Easter time last year was virtually unknown.

Now, we are beginning a new spring season and a renewed hope of lifting some of the restrictions that were put in place to help curb the spread of Covid-19. The new vaccines are helping us to see an ending of the bleak days that marked much of last year. These restrictions are easing as the trend data support the gradual abating of the virus. It is not an overnight, instantaneous event but rather easing based on available information.

The dawning of a day filled with new hope is the theme of another event in the Bible. The sickness of sin entered the world while Adam and Eve were in the garden. The sickness became so bad that God destroyed the world with a flood. Since that time, the sickness of sin has once more infected many people. Paul tells us in Romans 3:23, that all of us have been infected by sin. This sickness is more lethal than any other disease known to us. The sickness of sin ends in death (Romans 6:23). How are we to find the cure for our sin sickness? Paul answers that question. While Paul points out that we have all sinned and that sin results in death, Paul shows us that our situation is not hopeless.

**For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:6-10 NASB)**

One important thing to note from this passage is the fact that **we shall be saved by His life.** His death paid for our sins but His life saves us. Our salvation is made sure through the events of an early Sunday morning.

**Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. (Matthew 28:1-6 NASB)**

When the angel told Mary **He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said,** we are assured that we are reconciled to God and our sickness of sin and our disease is no longer placing us under the cloud of doubt or shame. We are free from this disease and given a new life.

Through the resurrection of Jesus, we have won out over the disease of sin.

**But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39 NASB)**

Some of us will celebrate when we may finally discard our mask and visit without restrictions our family and friends. Yes, that will be cause for celebration. However, we should celebrate that we serve a risen savior. This Easter Season we have more freedoms than we had last year. As we see more people vaccinated and the spread of Covid-19 stopped, we will finally reach that point where we may celebrate. We feel the constraints brought on by this disease. The constraints due to the sickness of sin are less obvious. If we saw them or felt them like we do the constraints required to halt Covid-19, then we could more fully understand how Jesus and His resurrection gives us a reason to celebrate. When Jesus walked out of that grave, He freed us from the bondage of sin.

**But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23 NASB)**

Our Great Physician conquered death and frees us from the constraints of sin. This is the best reason to celebrate this Easter.

## ~Devotion~

### JEREMY'S EGG

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment?

Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed. Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!" Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

Written by Ida Mae Kempel- [heavensinspirations.com](http://heavensinspirations.com)

## ~CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met on February 23, 2021 with the following members present: Jessie Brooks, Rachel Jordan, Debbie Smith, Nancy Hill, Claudia Alligood, June Wallace, Betty Schmitt, Linda Heath, Alice Wingate, Nelda Ormond, Barbara Morris and Gale Walton. Claudia called the meeting to order and Rachel opened with prayer. Nancy gave a devotion on Lent and what our primary focus should be during these 40 days.

The following prayer concerns were mentioned: Gloria Windley's sister (Ann Winfield), Donald Cartwright, Marcia Norman, Tony Krantz, Craig Hangman, Emer and Willa, Linda Heath's sister, Liz and Pete Fell, Jack Pishnock, The Sanders Family, Dick Adams, Barbara's friend (Delores Oakley), and Carolyn Fisher. Linda offered the prayer.

Minutes were read. Barbara made a motion to approve them and Alice seconded. The motion passed.

Under Business the following issues were discussed:

An update on the revised meeting times. The quarterly meeting will be on Wednesday, March 24. Hostesses for the quarterly meetings will provide refreshments until Family Night resumes. Debbie and Betty are hostesses for the March meeting.

There are still preserves left over in the Fellowship Hall. They can either be picked up or saved to be used for outreach.

Discussion followed on whether to divide the bazaar, having the yard sale on one date and the bazaar in the Fellowship Hall on another date. Because the Yard Sale is so labor intensive in addition to the cold temperatures in the gym the possibility of scheduling it earlier in the fall was brought up. After much discussion the matter was tabled until the March meeting.

Nelda gave the Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports were:

Joyce is sending cards on behalf of the circle. Jessie made a motion to buy a book of stamps for Joyce and it was seconded. Nelda is going to purchase them and get them to Joyce.

Shut-ins – give Debbie names for the list all during the year rather than just at Christmas.

Nancy gave a report about the joint meeting of the Worship Committee, Sunday School committee and the Youth Committee. Pending Board approval, congregational singing will resume on Palm Sunday. Everything else will continue with COVID-19 protocols in place. Until the state releases their restrictions it is in the best interest of all to continue with masks and social distancing. Sunday school will open back up on April 11. The raffle for the card money was held and Alice won.

The meeting was closed with the benediction.

Respectfully Submitted, Gale Walton

## ~Board Minutes~

The Board of Bath Christian Church met February 8, 2021 with fourteen members present. Starley Stell, Chairman, presided and called the meeting to order. Claude Dupree offered prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as presented on a motion by C.M. Cartwright and seconded by Gerald Morris. Jamie Barnhill gave the treasurer's report which was approved as presented.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. The sound system which was approved at a previous meeting had to be backordered.
2. As approved at the January meeting Jamie has been exploring other insurance companies and has gathered information and interviewed various ones. He is hopeful to have all needed information by the next meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Committee Chairs reported that their committees had met. Each gave the following reports:

1. Finance Committee – Mark Aydlett reported that the books had been audited and no problems were found.

2. Trustees Committee – The committee asked for the approval of the board to appoint Claude Dupree to serve on the committee to fill the vacancy due to the death of our long-time beloved and dedicated member, Rodney Bowen. Approval was given.

3. Worship Committee – Gerald Morris reported that the committee met March 28, 2021. Suggestions of steps to slowly and safely return to our regular service program were discussed. Suggestions were:

1. March 28 – Replace hymn books, etc. to the pews. Participating in singing will begin with masks in place. Special music will be added, also.

2. Following discussion Jamie made the motion to accept the recommendations for now but to reevaluate the situation at the next meeting. Leon Wingate seconded the motion which was approved.

3. The Worship Committee will meet in March with the Sunday School committee.

### 2. YOUTH MINISTER:

1. Alex Shreve, Youth Director, gave a detailed report on activities of the Youth Group during the past month and ideas for future activities.

### 3. MINISTERS REMARKS:

1. 103 telephone visits were made during the last month.

2. EASTER – At the present time there probably will not be a Sunrise Service this year.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

June Wallace – Secretary

## ~April 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:**

April 4	Easter Lilies
April 11	Helen Brooks
April 18	Becky & Phil McRoy
April 25	Barbara & Gerald Morris

\*\*\*\*\*



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

April 4	Lexi Clark – Teacher Debbie Smith – Assistant
April 11	Lexi Clark – Teacher Darlene Ormond – Assistant
April 18	Lexi Clark – Teacher Sandra Dupree – Assistant
April 25	Lexi Clark – Teacher Cynthia Stell – Assistant

\*\*\*\*\*

*Great minds  
discuss ideas,  
Average minds  
discuss events  
Small minds  
discuss people.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*



### **April Birthdays**

April 3	Aeryalle Williams Coward
April 4	Matthew Godley
April 7	Beau Norman
April 8	Carol Richardson
April 11	Shannon Blackstone Linda Shively
April 15	Emer Dean Audree Gurganus
April 16	Emily Gurganus
April 19	Christy Drake Howie
April 21	Jessica McRoy Ambrose Joyce Aydlett
April 26	Courtney Cartwright
April 27	Aiden Stell Davis Marshall Myers
April 28	Starley Stell

## ~Announcements~

### **Church Services Expanded**

The Church Board has voted to resume congregational singing on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. As the Covid 19 virus declines we will gradually add in other church activities.

Sunday, April 11 Sunday School will resume. Each family should have their own books (one book per family). Seating will be open but it is requested that everyone sit with immediate family and allow room for others. Face masks are required until further notice.

## CWF

Reminder: In a recent meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship a discussion was held concerning altering the schedule of the meetings. It was decided we would meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The exception will be quarterly meetings held at 7:30 in the evening beginning with the March, 2021 meeting. We encourage all women of the church to join in this time of fellowship and worship. Masks are required and all safety precautions will be observed.

## Church Website

We have faced some hurdles getting our church website operational and this will continue to be a work in progress. We are asking for volunteers willing to be trained to run the video equipment during Sunday worship service. Those volunteers would serve on a rotating schedule. If you are willing to help please make our pastor aware.

## Church Calendar

The church calendar for April, 2021 is not attached since all activities are currently cancelled. We will print the calendar again when normal activities resume.

## Easter Services Update

Easter Sunrise Services at Bonner Point have been cancelled this year. Our pastor, Jim, is the host speaker and plans are to make this Easter message available on the church website and to the other churches for their websites.

## Eagles Wings

The Eagles Wings basket is located outside the Fellowship Hall daily. Thanks for continuing to support this worthy and needy cause. They need to replenish their supply of nonperishable items. 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 which can be placed in the basket along with other items.

**Please make the church secretary aware of church directory additions/changes. We would like to recognize everyone with birthdays if you will contact the church office with that information.**

## Directory Updates:

Jean Mink, Manorhouse, 13500 N. Gayton Rd., Room 207, Henrico, Va. 23233.

Liz and Pete Fell, remove landline.  
Cell: 252-944-5880





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

Bill Bertram; Sarah Burgess;  
Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith &  
Michael Corless; Ann Cullen; Bill

Cutler; Peggy Davis; Donald Everett; John Everett;  
Liz & Pete Fell; Carolyn Fisher; Beverly & John Holt;  
Jackie Mullen; Marcia Norman; Harold Ormond;  
Carol Richardson; Linda Shively; Beverly & Ron  
Tincher, caregivers & Unspoken Requests.

**Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:** Danny  
Barrow; Jane Bass; Susan Boyd; Easton Brooks; Tilman  
Carter; Jim Caton; Eddie Coltrain; John Conway;  
Anthony Cutler, Kandice Dean's father; Cleve Edwards;  
Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris Gibbs; Gail Gibbs;  
Larry Green; Pauline Gurganus; Chris Harris; Hunter  
Hasty; Jo Ann & Mike Isbell; Sue Kemmer; Tony Krantz;  
Linwood Lewis; Jamie Locklear; Mavis Owens; Mike  
Painter; Wilson Paul; Tom Rule; Stephanie Sabbra; Dean  
Sheppard; Harry Smith; Patricia Smith; Raymond  
Spencer; Don Steffa; Bonnie Swain; Susie Swinson;  
Roger Tuning; Faye Waters; Oscar Webster; Ann  
Winfield; Deanna Woolard; Wendy Woolard; teenagers  
throughout the world, those affected by the coronavirus,  
& Unspoken Requests.

**The families of:** Laura Miller Adams, Janice Allen, Harold  
Boyd, Judy Chesnutt, Margie Cofer, William George Cooper,  
Kathleen Cox, Rayvon Craddock, Verona Cratch, Evelyn Cutler,  
Jimmy Edwards, Alan Emerson, Ira Garrett, Jr., Thomas Harris,  
Carolyn Griffin Hill, Randy Howard, Donald Jones, Flora  
Keyes, Tex Little, Lois Loope, Ellis Myers, Sr., Michael Oakley,  
Ronnie Parrott, Carol Phelps, Jack Pishnock, Allie Saburn,  
Billy Sheppard, Sr., Rosa Swindell, Crystal Tate, Petra Tillery,  
Evelyn Tyson, Homer Wallace, Sally Wiley, Brien Windley,  
Edwyn Wright.

**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:** Donald Cartwright, Pete Fell, Bob  
Miller.

Please submit news to me  
for the May newsletter by  
9:00 am Friday, April 23rd. 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)