



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 February

February is national heart month. It is a month that is designated to help focus on heart healthy choices and lifestyles. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. This year, we have been so focused and concerned with the novel corona virus known as Covid 19 that we may have lost sight on the importance of heart health. According to the latest data (published on January 14, 2021), Covid-19 is ranked as the third leading cause of death in the United States. It is a distant third behind cancer and heart disease. Heart disease is and has been the leading cause of death for many years. Sometimes, our hearts need medication or surgical procedures to help them function properly and continue to sustain life. Perhaps, a heart may be so damaged that a heart transplant is required. We understand these facts about our blood-pumping heart.

Our spiritual heart may become diseased as well. Our heart may no longer function as God designed it or desires for it to function. In Zechariah, God reveals certain traits that will reveal if our heart is working properly or if we have developed spiritual heart disease.

“Thus, has the LORD of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’ But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. They made their hearts *like flint* so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of host had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore, great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 7:9-12 NASB)

Within these few verses, we learn that God is looking for signs of heart disease in how we treat others. He is looking for how we treat those who are lacking the prestige, power or financial resources to defend or provide for themselves. When we allow material concerns to obscure the needs of others while we amass goods for ourselves, we are allowing our hearts to become hardened to the needs of others.

Just as heart disease in our bodies may be undetected, so might our spiritual heart be diseased. There are symptoms that indicate our spiritual heart disease. Jesus spoke of the symptoms when he addressed religious leaders who were more concerned about outward appearances than inward health.

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. (Matthew 12:33-35 NASB)

Our speech offers clues to our spiritual heart’s health. For some, the absence of curse words would indicate a healthy heart. However, I suggest that curse words alone may not be the only indicator. What is the focus of our words? Do they build up or tear down? Do they spend more time discussing worldly things and concerns or are they pointing to God and our heavenly home?

What if we find that we have spiritual heart disease? Are we without hope? Are we doomed? No! God is prepared to perform a spiritual heart transplant.

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. (Ezekiel 36:25-27 NASB)

The key to good heart health, both physical and spiritual, is to cultivate healthy eating habits and follow a good exercise program. In other terms, we must eat right and keep active. Paul left these words of encouragement to the Philippians and they would apply to us as well: **Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. (Philippians 4:8 NASB)**

As we remember national heart month, let us think of our spiritual heart as well as our physical heart. May we all enjoy good heart health.

~Devotion~

Looking Through the Right Lens

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV)

I sat in the dimly lit room with soft music wafting through the air and began to relax. No, this was not the prelude to a romantic evening with my husband. It was the aftermath of my yearly eye exam! If you’ve ever had an eye exam, you’re familiar with the refraction test the doctor uses to determine if you need glasses, and if so, what prescription is right for you. You place your face up to a tool called a phoropter, and then the doctor flips down the first lens, then another, while you say which of the two helps you see the letters on the eye chart more clearly. Lens one or two? Lens three or four? Which one is better?

The eye doctor’s vision test made me wonder if I was looking at my life through the correct lens. Was it possible to flip down a different lens and see a better story?

The Apostle Paul was a man whose physical eyesight waned with the passing years, but his spiritual eyesight remained exceptionally clear. During his time preaching the gospel, he was flogged, whipped and stoned many times. He had been shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, outcast and ridiculed. Several times, he was in lockdown in one place or another. Some of his life was spent under house arrest in Rome, as well as chained to a guard in a dirty dungeon — all for preaching the gospel. And yet, it was during one of those stints in prison that Paul wrote the most joyful book in the New Testament: Philippians.

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have

become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.” (Philippians 1:12-14, NIV)

Lens one or two? Paul didn’t see himself as stuck in prison *because* of Jesus; he saw himself as stationed in prison *for* Jesus. He didn’t see himself as chained to a Roman guard; he saw the Roman guard as chained to him. The guards had to listen to Paul talk about Jesus day in and day out. Paul had time to write letters to all the churches, something he might not have done had he been free to travel.

Paul also wrote, *“I am **put here** for the defense of the gospel”* (Philippians 1:16, NIV, emphasis added). Who put him there? From the outside looking in, it appeared the Roman rulers put him there. But from the inside looking out, Paul knew God had positioned him there. He didn’t see himself as stuck at all. He considered himself stationed. And because he was looking through the right lens, he had joy even in a difficult situation.

I wish this was my perspective all the time, but it’s not. It’s a struggle. I pout, get huffy and become downright discouraged when my plans fall apart or people don’t respond the way I’d hoped. But after settling down, I try to remember to flip the lens and look at my circumstances through the sovereignty of God rather than the selfishness of Sharon. And that gives me a better story. Not because the storyline changes, but because my perspective does.

Heavenly Father, forgive me for grumbling and complaining about my circumstances. Help me to flip the lens and look at my life through the lens of Your sovereignty. I know my circumstances will work to mold and make me more like Jesus. Help me to have joy in the journey. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

TRUTH FOR TODAY

2 Corinthians 4:18, “As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (ESV)

Sharon Jaynes – Proverbs31.org

~Board Minutes~

The Board of Bath Christian Church met December 6, 2020. Chairman, Starley Stell presided. Becky Tuten opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion of acceptance by Leon Wingate and seconded by Becky McRoy. The Treasurer's report was approved on the motion made by Becky Tuten and seconded by Leon Wingate.

OLD BUSINESS

1. NEW EQUIPMENT - Since the last meeting some changes have been made and fine tuning done. The reception seems better on Facebook. The view can be seen on the website also.
2. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Gerald Morris presented the ideas that the Worship Committee recommended in making the worship service safer if the Board approved having the service. Recommendations were to have two shorter services, congregation use electric hand candles and individual packs of communion sacraments; limit attendance to 50 per service and to set up the Fellowship Hall or classroom for any overflow.

Gerald made the recommendations in the form of a motion to have the Candlelight service following the safety ideas as presented. Motion passed.

In order to stream programs from the sanctuary to the classroom a different TV is needed. Gerald made the motion to sell the present TV for \$250 and replace it with a TV which will coordinate with equipment in use. Larry Schmitt seconded the motion. Jamie Barnhill will buy the old TV for \$250.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021
Chairman – Starley Stell
V. Chairman – Gerald Morris
Secretary – June Wallace
Vice Secretary – Becky Tuten
Treasurer – Jamie Barnhill
Vice Treasurer – Claude Dupree

4. The Youth Director, Alex, gave a summary of the youth activities during November and upcoming events and activities for December.
5. Following discussion, a motion was made by Leon Wingate to give Christmas bonuses to the employees of the church and financial gifts to Eagle Wings, Social Services, Bath Elementary, Ruth's House and Salvation Army. The motion was seconded by Becky Tuten and approved by the board.

C.M. Cartwright gave the benediction.

June Wallace
Secretary

"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn to grow, to love... and then we return home."

Australian Aboriginal Proverb
Pinterest

~CWF~

On January 3, 2021 a brief meeting was held in the church sanctuary following the morning service. Those attending were: Claudia Alligood, Cynthia Stell, Nancy Hill, Rachel Jordan, Linda Heath, Jessie Brooks, Gale Walton, Barbara Sanderson, Mary Lynn Edwards, Debbie Smith, Helen Brooks, Sandra Dupree, Betty Schmitt.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of assisting Annie Riddick whose house had completely burned down during the weekend. There was much discussion on various ways to help out and when it would be best to offer assistance. Nancy Hill made a motion to immediately offer a monetary gift of \$500. Rachel Jordan seconded. Ms. Riddick's niece with whom she is presently staying works at the Family Dollar. Nancy suggested that members might want to drop off meals for the family there during the next few weeks. Further discussion on ways to assist will be forthcoming.

The next meeting is January 26 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Gale Walton, Secretary

~February 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:

- February 7 Jessie Brooks
- February 14 Connie & Roger Winstead
- February 21 Deidra & Fred Hill
- February 28 Marshall Myers

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Nursery (Little Lion's Class) Schedule:

- February 7 Lexi Clark – Teacher
 Cassandra Gilbertson – Assistant
- February 14 Lexi Clark – Teacher
 Kathy Dupree – Assistant
- February 21 Lexi Clark – Teacher
 Tori Dupree – Assistant
- February 28 Lexi Clark – Teacher
 Billy Dean – Assistant

February Birthdays

- February 5 Trevor Crawford
- February 6 Jeannie Woolard
- February 8 Earl Barber
- February 9 Darlene Ormond
- February 10 Hannah Bogenn
 Raegen Bogenn
- February 13 Donald Everett
 Austin Gurganus
- February 21 Joan Chrismon
- February 25 C. M. Woolard

~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 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. **Our 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services are currently being live-streamed.** Our Youth Director, Alex Shreve, has a Bath Christian Church Youth Facebook Page.

Church Calendar

The church calendar for February, 2021 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. Now that the holiday season is over they will 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 including birthdate (month/day).

When you were born
you cried and the
world rejoiced.
Live your life so that
when you die,
the world cries and
you rejoice.

Cherokee Proverb



Prayer Requests : Church Family Prayer Concerns:

Carolyn Ambrose; Sarah Burgess;
Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith &
Michael Corless; Ann Cullen;

Bill Cutler; Peggy Davis; Donald Everett;
Liz & Pete Fell; Carolyn Fisher; Beverly & John Holt;
Jackie Mullen; Marcia Norman; Harold Ormond;
Carol Richardson; Gary Sheppard; Sarah Stone;
Beverly & Ron Tincher, caregivers &

Unspoken Requests.

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns: Jane Bass;
Susan Boyd; Tony Boyd; Tilman Carter; John Conway;
Anthony Cutler; Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris
Gibbs; Gail Gibbs; Kathy Godwin; Larry Green; Phyllis
Guill; Pauline Gurganus; Chris Harris; Hunter Hasty;
Dwight Humphrey; Mike Isbell; Sue Kemmer; Linwood
Lewis; Jamie Locklear; Mavis Owens; Mike Painter;
Wilson Paul; Linda Poore; Stephanie Sabbra; Dean
Sheppard; Lisa & Tim Shreve; Patricia 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: Clara Albritton, Preston Alligood, Glenn
Ayscue, Caddie Baker, Lucille Baker, Haywood Barber, Marty
Barfield, Rodney Bowen, Mark Boyd, Floyd Brothers, Mildred
Cowan, Lucinda Daniels, Kay Dowell, Alameda Edwards,
Michael Edwards, Betty Brooks Everett, Jack Everett, Sr., Earl
Freeman, Laura Gipson, Jeremy Goodman, Ray Hamilton, Dale
Harris, Gary Holland, Hilda Hollowell, April Hooker, Billy
Jefferson, Alma Johnson, Don "Kenny" Keech, Carol Lilley,
Virginia Lee Lilley, Booster Lindsey, James Morgan, Dorcas
Oakley, Dimple O'Neal, Zoph Potts, Rev. Claude Scarborough,
Norman Smith, Vance Smith, Judy Spain, Frank Steinbeck,
Gloria Tetterton, Virginia Thompson, Vivian Cordon Thompson,
Timothy Toler, Frances Wetzal, Leonard Woolard, Susan R.
Woolard, Henry Young, Jr..

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 March newsletter by
9:00 am Friday, February 19th. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com**