



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 May

We are now more than a year removed from when we first heard about Covid-19. The news we hear today is still one of mixed signals. We have vaccines available from multiple sources and there are some treatment options that were not available a year ago. The number of cases dipped and the number of hospitalized patients also declined. However, it seems that every time we hear some good news regarding this virus, the trending numbers of cases and hospitalizations have an up-tic and we still cannot relax. The “experts” all offer conflicting advice. It is no wonder that we are confused and without foundation on which to build any hope of this pandemic coming to an end.

Part of the reason for the confusion is that this is a new virus and thus we have many unknowns. Part of the reason for confusion may well lie in the fact that too many people are spreading misinformation and baseless rumors. Regardless of how we personally view the virus and the future of returning to a more normal life, we all need to find a solid foundation on which we build our life, our plans, and our happiness.

The uncertainties we face today are not a new phenomenon. If we pause to reflect back to the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, we will see that the country was at war with Spain (1898-1901) and San Francisco was rocked by two significant earthquakes (1904 & 1906). Later, in 1918, there was another pandemic. I will stop at 1906 because I recall a hymn that was written in 1906 that speaks of uncertain times and firm or sure foundations. The song was written by Jennie B. Wilson and is titled *Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand*. In the first verse, we are told that nothing on earth will remain unmoved and we are told to *Build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God’s unchanging hand*. The 4th verse ends the song with the assurance that we have in Jesus.

*When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.*

When we look around the world, we find uncertainty. We cannot be sure that our nation can withstand the many trials that we see. As mentioned earlier, the virus with its many uncertainties leaves us shaken. Yet, we often look in the wrong places for a sign of hope. We need to look to and take the hand of God. We may rest assured that God is unchanging and we may find security in God. God gives us this promise found in Isaiah: **‘Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ (Isaiah 41:10 NASB)**

Some may tell me that this is a simplistic idea. Trusting in God will not spare us from suffering or uncertainty. You are so right. I have never thought nor advocated that trusting in God would spare us the many ordeals of this world. However, God tells us that He will be with us when we see those times.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. (Isaiah 43:2 NASB)

At all times, we should build our hopes, dreams, and lives on the firm foundation we find in God and His son Jesus the Christ. Again, we look at God’s words as found in Isaiah. **Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. (Isaiah 28:16 NASB)**

Paul uses similar terms in his letter to the Corinthians. When he writes: **For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11 NASB)**

When we build on the foundation of Jesus Christ, we know that we may endure hardships, suffering, or even death. Yet, we will not be shaken. We are assured: **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 8:38-39 NASB)**

The world offers uncertainty and chaos. We, as Christians, should build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. We need to *hold to God’s unchanging hand*.

May God continue to bless you as we move from spring into summer.

~Devotion~

Mother

Mother. Just the name evokes a flood of thoughts and memories. Childhood memories of a loving hand to bandage a skinned knee, and a magical kiss upon that bandage that made the pain fade away. The big smile and wild applause from the third row in the audience of a second-grade school play, acknowledging my dramatic interpretation of a tree, a tree that spoke not a word. The bedtime stories and prayers where I learned that the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Sometimes I look at her bloodstained Bible, which she took with her to dialysis treatments in her latter days. There she shared her faith and testimony with the other patients, being a blessing in her time of sickness. Though she is with the Lord, her life and love remain in my heart.

Mother. I am doubly blessed that my child has the best one, a Mother whose child is the center of her world. She's a Mother who loves, teaches, corrects shares, prays, plays, and focuses herself completely on the health, welfare, and happiness of her child. She's a Mother who cries every year on the first day of school after we put our daughter on the school bus. So to cheer her up and get her mind off of it, I take her to breakfast at IHOP. It's hard to cry in your pancakes. She's a role model our daughter will be hard-pressed to duplicate, though I know she will.

Mother. There are many wonderful Mothers in all our lives and though we honor them every year, it seems inadequate considering what they really deserve.

Mother. There once was a Mother so unique, so precious, that our heavenly Father chose her to be the Mother of His only begotten Son. She was so trusted that even though she was young, inexperienced, and poor, she was chosen to Mother our Lord Jesus. Difficult circumstances were her lot in life, and yet through unspeakable adversity, such as the death threat against her son by the King, she poured herself into her son, who became the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

It makes one wonder, what part of His determination; compassion, patience, longsuffering, and love came from her influence on Him. We assume that He received all of His attributes from His heavenly Father because He is the Son of God. But He is also the Son of man, so we must not forget to honor His Mother for being used of God the Father to instill many of those attributes.

Mother. She's the one who pushed Jesus into His public ministry by making Him do His first public miracle. [John 2:1-11](#) describes how He wasn't prepared to turn the water into wine because He said that His time had not yet come.

"This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him" ([John 2:11 NLT](#)).

Like us, He experienced that wonderful force of nature, a Mama who knows best!

He acknowledged her and provided for her even during His torture on the cross.

"When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home" ([John 19:26-27 NLT](#)).

Their love and Devotion for each other didn't end there. As she prayed with the others in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, he filled her with the Holy Spirit, and their relationship continues to this day. She is an example to Mothers, as He is an example to Sons and daughters.

Mother. Love her. Cherish her. Honor her. She deserves it!.

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~CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met on March 24, 2021 with the following members present: Nancy Hill, Barbara Morris, Alice Wingate, Rachel Jordan, Linda Heath, Betty Schmitt, Alex Shreve, Helen Brooks, Nelda Ormond, Claudia Alligood, Jessie Brooks and Cynthia Stell. Claudia called the meeting to order.

Claudia led us in a devotion on thanking God. Everyone shared one blessing they were thankful for. Prayer concerns were named. Barbara offered the prayer for them and our offerings.

Business:

Claudia reminded us to shop local and support area businesses.

Meetings will remain as scheduled for now.

Devotionals will be used for our program.

The Bazaar will remain a one day event on the third Saturday in November.

Refreshments will continue as scheduled.

Nelda gave the Treasurer's Report. Thank you notes were read from Eagles Wings and Barbara Oliver.

Committee Reports:

Nancy reported on restarting Sunday School on April 11, 2021. Classes for all age groups will be available. We will continue with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Alex shared upcoming Youth activities.

The raffle for the card money was held and Rachel won. The meeting was closed with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Stell

Jesus died for you
in public, so don't
only live for him
in private.

[flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cynthiastell/)

~Board Minutes~

The Board of Bath Christian Church met March 7, 2021. Starley Stell, Chairman, presided and called the meeting to order. Leon Wingate offered the opening prayer. The secretary's report was approved after corrections were made. Treasurer, Jamie Barnhill, gave the monthly and yearly reports of the treasury.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bluetooth order is still pending.
2. Jamie Barnhill reported that the information on investigating changing the insurance provider is pending and a decision will be decided upon soon.
3. Gerald Morris reported that the Youth Director, Worship and Sunday School committees had met and shared the recommended procedures for the reopening of church functions. After discussion Gerald made the motion to accept the recommendations. After discussion Larry seconded the motion which was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Starley Stell announced that the April meeting would begin at 7:30 PM.
2. Gerald Morris made a benevolent request on behalf of a friend who has health issues, family and personal needs. Jamie Barnhill made the motion to make a monetary donation. Reeves Smith seconded the motion which was approved.

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

1. Alex Shreve, Youth Director, gave a detailed report on Youth Activities. (attached sheet).
2. Alex left after her presentation. Lesley Woolard gave a detailed and praise report on the activities of the Director and her dedication to the youth of the church. Gerald Morris made a motion to adjust her salary. Becky Tuten seconded the motion which was approved.

MINISTER'S REMARKS:

1. Telephone visits had been made and two home visits made.
2. Recommended that training sessions for volunteers who agree to participate in the filming of the church services would serve on a rotating schedule.

June Wallace, Secretary

~May 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.



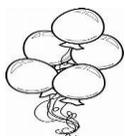
Flower Schedule:

May 2	Joan & Pearson Chrismon
May 9	Alex & Don Shreve
May 16	Darlene Ormond
May 23	Joyce & Mark Aydlett
May 30	Jane & Richard Wright



Nursery (Little Lion's Class) Schedule:

May 2	Rachel & Cliff Jordan
May 9	Kathy & Tori Dupree
May 16	Connie & Roger Winstead
May 23	Cassandra & Ronnie Gilbertson
May 30	Jessie & Helen Brooks



May Birthdays

May 3	Evyn Gilbertson
May 7	Caroline Morris
May 11	Louis Gurganus
May 18	Lynn Wingate Davis
May 25	Mark Godley
May 28	Gray Lewis
May 29	Sarah Stone

~Announcements~

May Events

Sunday – May 2nd – 7:30 PM. Church Board Meeting
 Wednesday – May 12th 7:30 PM – Choir Practice
 Sunday – May 9th – Mothers Day – Baptism
 Sunday – May 16th – Baptism
 Tuesday – May 25th 10:00 AM – Christian Women's Fellowship Meets in Fellowship Hall
 Wednesday – May 26th 7:30 PM – Choir Practice
 Monday – May 31st – Memorial Day Holiday

Sunday School

Sunday school has resumed utilizing safety precautions. Everyone is encouraged to join us at 9:00 AM in the church sanctuary. There will be classes for all age groups including a new young adult class taught by Alex & Don Shreve.

Baptism Services

Some of our youth have been studying and learning the importance of baptism as they grow in their Christian faith. As a result, some youth are ready to profess their commitment to Christ and desire to be baptised. So that we can accommodate schedules for our youth and their families, Sunday May 9th and Sunday May 16th are being set aside for baptism.

Vacation Bible School

Reminder – VBS is Sunday, August 1 thru Thursday, August 5.

Graduate Recognition Sunday 2021

It is time to once again honor our graduates. We will honor them on Sunday, June 13 during the morning worship service. We include eighth grade, high school, college graduates and marshals in this recognition.

We depend on you to let us know the graduates and marshals who should be included in this service. Please submit their **full given names** in writing to Alex Schreve by Sunday, May 16. We need this information by this date to be sure that we have all materials ordered and ready for presentation.

Include name of school and degree for college graduates. Graduates do not have to be present that Sunday to have their name included on our recognition list. ***** Do not assume that a graduate's name will be included. We try very hard to not overlook anyone and we depend on the information we receive. Please submit all names by the deadline. Thank you.**

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:

Gloria Windley – Cell 252-945-8541 – no landline
Neal Duncan – Cell 252-402-9645
Jeannie & Dale Woolard – 124 Glebe Creek Rd, Bath, NC 27808 (no PO Box or landline). Jeannie Cell: 252-945-8459; Dale Cell: 252-945-3321.
Shannon Blackstone – 684 Singleton Road, Washington, NC. Cell – 252-943-9400

IMPACT

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around.

You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first.

Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change.

**Just be kind,
because you never know how much someone needs it.**

nikkibanas -halfbakedharvest.com



Prayer Requests : Church Family Prayer Concerns:
Charlie Clark; Ella Mae Smith &
Michael Corless; Ann Cullen; Bill
Cutler; Liz & Pete Fell; Beverly & John
Holt; Carol Richardson; Linda Shively; Beverly & Ron
Tincher, caregivers & Unspoken Requests.

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns: Brenda
Alligood; Jane Bass; Susan Boyd; Easton Brooks;
Amber Bullock; Tilman Carter; Donald Cartwright;
Eddie Coltrain; John Conway; Anthony Cutler; Esther
Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris Gibbs; Gail Gibbs;
Kathy Godwin; Larry Green; Pauline Gurganus; Bryant
Hardison; Chris Harris; Hunter Hasty; Jay Holt; Jo Ann
& Mike Isbell; Laney Jordan; Sue Kemmer; Linwood
Lewis ;Steve Mann; Mavis Owens; Mike Painter; Wilson
Paul; Stephanie Sabbra; Dean Sheppard; Patricia Smith;
Raymond Spencer; Don Steffa; Susie Swinson; Roger
Tuning; Faye Waters; Ann Winfield; Deanna Woolard;
Wendy Woolard; teenagers throughout the world, those
affected by the coronavirus, & Unspoken Requests.

The families of: Emma Padgett Allen, Linda Cox Alligood,
Douglas Alvord, Frankie Buck, Duke Chandler; Carolyn
Cuthrell, Frank Duke, Rev. Cleveland Duke, Jr., Clarence
Everett, Pamela Frasier, Helen Gant, Nora Guirkins, "Teenie"
Haddock, Jennifer Helms, Howard Hodges, JoAnn Jacoby,
Patsy Johnson, James Laney, Sammy Marshall, Jr., Edmond
Moore, Kathryne Watson Morton, Margaret Perez, Tony
Roberson, Tom Robinson, Mildred Buckman Spivey, Sarah
Stephens, Royal Sundeen, Jack Swarner, Jr., Barbara Van
Essendelft, Michael Warren, Lacy Williams, IV., Mae Evelyn
Woolard, Mary "Linda" Woolard, Obe Worthington, Frank
Wyatt..

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.

In Nursing Homes: Pete Fell, Bob Miller.

Please submit news to me
for the June newsletter by
9:00 am Friday, May 21st. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com