



## 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

The temperatures are telling us that change is in process. The high temperatures and high humidity days are beginning to make way for the more moderate days of autumn. We see this change every year and we are usually ready to greet these changes. We understand that seasonal changes are a part of the cycle of weather patterns that are a part of our region.

As we greet the seasonal change, we may decorate our house and yard with the appropriate scenes to mark the time of year. We place pumpkins and multicolored leaves around to indicate the time of autumn and its distinctive décor. None of us argue with the arrival of a new season. We each have our preferred season, yet we accept the current season as appropriate and timely. We do this even when it is not our favorite season. (I must confess that the fall season is my favorite.) Change is a part of life and certainly a part of the world around us.

However, many of us don’t like change. “Why can’t things be like they use to be?” Reality is that the only constant is change. We could analyze the reasons behind our distain for change and never cover all of the reasons. The main reason we don’t like change is it makes us uncomfortable. We have settled into our own little comfort zone and we don’t like nor do we want anything to upset our corner of the world.

This is a nature tendency. We find that we resist change even when the change will bring about better things for us. Perhaps the tenacious pandemic has added to our settling into a shell of sameness. Now, we resist change because we fear change as much as we don’t want to come out of our comfort zone. This is true in all areas of our life. Our church life is no different. We are comfortable attending (or not) and we don’t want to change. We like our church like we do a comfortable pair of shoes. Everything fits so well we don’t want to try anything new.

Let’s not chance the discomfort of breaking-in a new pair of shoes.

For some of us, we have had this same church for fifty years or more and we don’t want to chance any change. It might open the door for new people to come and disrupt the comfort with which we have become accustomed.

There are at least two things that cause me to challenge this thought process. First, this is Christ’s church and not ours. We must first and foremost seek to include Jesus in everything the church does whether we become uncomfortable or not. The last thing Jesus said to His disciple before ascending into heaven was: **And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 NASB)**

This means that we have a charge to share the good news that Jesus came to bring salvation to everyone. If we aren’t sharing that message, we are not doing what Jesus told us to do. Christianity is not a passive lifestyle. We cannot sit here and await someone to show up and start attending our church because they moved here. Jesus gave us a mission. Our rationalization of why we should not or how futile our efforts might be will not change the charge that Jesus left for us to go make disciples. Some of those new people might challenge us to change. The Jews had to change to conform to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles. They (the apostles) did not wait quietly in synagogue and wait for new people to show up already just like them. They went everywhere teaching and assimilating the new people into Christ’s church.

The second reason to challenge the idea of maintaining the status quo we find in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew.

(continued on back)

Many of us remember Jesus is speaking about His return and told two parables to suggest that we need to be ready and we need to be busy. The first parable has to do with the ten virgins awaiting the coming of the bride groom. The second parable tells us about a man (the master) leaving various talents with different servants. Two of those servants used the talents that had been entrusted to them and earned additional talents. When he returned, the master was pleased. When he went to check on the third servant, he found that the talent had been given to him was returned. The servant had not done anything with the talent. We see the master's reaction when we read from Matthew 25:26-30.

**“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival, I would have received my *money* back with interest. Therefore, take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’**

**“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:26-30 NASB)**

When Jesus entrusts a church in our care, do we try our best to maintain it unused so we may return it to Him in the same condition? Jesus expects us to use the gifts that He has given. Our failure to change and grow His church will be met with the same stinging words of rebuke **You wicked, lazy slave.**

No, we are not like we were fifty years ago, nor should we be. Change is a part of growth. We need to remember that this is Christ's church and we have a charge to make disciples and to use the talents God gave to us in trust. In all likelihood, we will not be the same fifty years from now as we are now. The question before each of us is, will Christ's church be here and thriving or will it no longer exist because we failed in our mission.

## ~Devotion~

### WHAT IS THE CORRECT WAY TO PRAY?

Prayer, simply put, is conversation with God. That in mind, shouldn't we be doing it in a way that pleases Him? Not to get us on a good list so that he'll do what we ask, but to really understand how to talk with Him, and share our concerns, fears, and pleas. We would never subject a friend to demands made out of fear or pride. How could that be a good way to talk to God?

The Bible says a lot about prayer, including Jesus' words on how to pray (The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13). One parable Jesus shared with his disciples, speaks directly to my question.

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector In Luke 18, the doctor-turned-disciple recorded a story Jesus told about two men who both prayed to God, and how they were each received by the Father.

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector". (Luke 18:9-10)

This parable is a good way to measure our hearts as we come to God in prayer. Ask yourself, am I the Pharisee or a tax collector? It's kind of hard to determine who the good guy is in this scenario before Jesus explains God's point of view. Prior to Jesus' admonitions against the religiosity perpetrated by the Pharisees, they were the respected church leaders. They were the holy men of that day. The tax collectors were hated by most. Right off the bat, one would assume that Jesus would denounce the later, as the "sinner". And he would, if it were not for what the taxman did inside the temple.

**"The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer. "I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income."**

**"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'" I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:11-14, New Living Translation).**

The parable's lesson is found in what these two men do in response to God's presence. The proud church leader attempts to validate his own "righteousness" in his prayer. He judges his neighbor all while spouting his good deeds, as if that's going to guarantee him some Brownie points with God. The tax collector approaches his prayer in humility. With no self-righteous bone in his body, he asks God to show him mercy.

#### **Prayers that God Hears**

The Lord hears the prayers of the justified and the humble. King Josiah's god-fearing life, as recorded in the Old Testament, is an example of this. In 2 Chronicles 34:27, we see that a repentant heart gets God's attention.

**You were sorry and humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this city and its people. You humbled yourself and tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. And I have indeed heard you, says the Lord. (NLT)**

God wants to hear sincerity in our prayer, not vanity. As we pray, let's determine to stay steadfastly humble before the Lord. Fortunately, God extends mercy to everyone who comes to Him in repentance, even those who get stuck in Churchianity, like the Pharisee. Bottom line: God is concerned with the heart of a person. So next time you go to God in prayer, ask yourself, am I humble or proud? Either way it's a chance to get right with Him.

[www1.cbn.com/biblestudy](http://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy)

## ~Church Board~

The Board of the BCC met August 8, 2021. Starley Stell, chairman, presided. Gerald Morris offered the opening prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved on the motion made by Becky Tuten and seconded by Reeves Smith. Jamie Barnhill presented the monthly financial and quarterly reports. After discussion, C. M. Cartwright motioned to accept the reports as presented. Leon Wingate seconded the motion which was approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. The chain barrier has been installed to prevent parking in front of the church.
2. A new microwave oven has been installed at the parsonage.
3. As mentioned at the last meeting Jamie Barnhill has further explored allowing donations to be made from viewers on line. Leon Wingate expressed that most people who desired to donate to the church would do so and made the motion to make no changes. Jamie Barnhill seconded the motion which was approved.
4. Leon Wingate presented the revised serving schedule for Family Night. Because of a drop in numbers Family Night will only occur once a month on the fourth Wednesday night. The first meeting will be August 25. Gerald Heath made the motion to accept the recommendation of the committee. Reeves Smith seconded the motion which was approved.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jamie Barnhill, Treasurer made a request for a new lap top and the software, Quick Books, which is an improvement to the software in use at the present. Leon Wingate motioned to purchase the requested items. Becky Tuten seconded the motion which was approved.
2. The recommendation to increase the salary of Mr. Wade McKeel who keeps the complex clean. Reeves Smith made the motion to increase his salary effective at the next pay period. Becky Tuten seconded the motion which passed.

3. Chairman Starley Stell appointed the Nominating Committee for the coming year. Nominations will be due at the September meeting. Committee: Jamie Barnhill, Chairman. Reeves Smith and Lesley Woolard.
4. Minister's remarks: Visits made – 35 homes: 4 hospital visits: 6 nursing home.
5. Approval was given to allow a Blood Drive to be held in the Fellowship Hall.
6. The Youth Director reported the July activities of the Youth group.

Claude Dupree closed the meeting with prayer.

June Wallace, Secretary

**Faith, is a principle  
which has its root  
deeper than  
feelings.  
We believe, whether  
we see or not.  
We believe, whether  
we feel or not.**

**C.H. Spurgeon**

~CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met in the Choir Room on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. The following ladies were present: Claudia Alligood, Mary Lynn Edwards, Rachel Jordan, Liz Fell, Jane Alligood, Jessie Brooks, Barbara Morris, Nancy Hill, Nancy Robertson, Sandra Dupree, Bobbie Sanderson, Alice Wingate, Debbie Smith, Cyndi Hollis, Helen Brooks and Cynthia Stell.

Claudia called the meeting to order. The offering was collected and a prayer was given by Barbara.

Mary Lynn Edwards won the grab bag.

Prayer concerns were shared and a prayer for them was given by Barbara.

The minutes were read and approved and Nelda gave the Treasurer's report.

**Business:**

The Craft House opening on August 23, 2021 at 9:00 am was changed to a meeting in the church fellowship hall. New ideas for the bazaar were discussed. These included adding new items and making layout changes. Barbara moved to accept recommendations. Nancy Hill seconded. Volunteers are needed to prepare soup, chicken salad, pimento cheese, cakes for the Bazaar.

The CWF needs a new Card Secretary. If you are interested, please see Claudia or Nancy Hill.

Claudia gave the devotional using Nancy Robertson's book The Act of Everyday Worship by Ruth Chou Simons.

Revival will begin on Sunday, September 26, 2021 thru Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm each night. Guest speaker will be Rick Vernon.

Helen Brooks and Cynthia Stell are responsible for the next CWF meeting on September 22, 2021.

The meeting was closed with the CWF Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Stell



**Flower Schedule:**

- October 3 CWF
- October 10 Peggy Davis
- October 17 Ann & Bill Bertram
- October 24 Alice & Leon Wingate
- October 31 Mary Lynn Edwards

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

- October 3 Kathy & Tori Dupree
- October 10 Connie & Roger Winstead
- October 17 Cassandra & Ronnie Gilbertson
- October 24 Jessie & Helen Brooks
- October 31 Barbara & Gerald Morris

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**Greeter Schedule:**

- October 3 Barbara Morris
- October 10 Phil McRoy
- October 17 Marcia Norman
- October 24 Rachel Jordan
- October 31 Alice Wingate

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**Children's Moment:**

- October 3 Howard Robertson
- October 10 Darlene Ormond
- October 17 John LaCava
- October 24 Rachel Jordan
- October 31 Becky McRoy



## Serving Schedule:

October 3

Elders: C. Cartwright & G. Morris  
Deacon of Wk: Cartwright & Heath  
Deacons: G. Heath, J. Jordan,  
B. McRoy, B. Norman

October 10

Elders: G. Morris & H. Robertson  
Deacon of Wk: Morris & Smith  
Deacons: R. Smith, B. Tuten,  
C. Woolard, L. Woolard

October 17

Elders: H. Robertson & S. Stell  
Deacon of Wk: Robertson & Jordan  
Deacons: J. Jordan, P. Chrisman,  
L. Gurganus, G. Heath

October 24

Elders: S. Stell & L. Wingate  
Deacon of Wk: Stell & Jordan  
Deacons: J. Jordan, B. McRoy,  
B. Norman, R. Smith

October 31

Elders: L. Wingate & J. Barnhill  
Deacon of Week: Wingate & Tuten  
Deacons: B. Tuten, C. Woolard,  
L. Woolard, McRoy

## Video Schedule:

October 3 MaKayla Gilbertson  
October 10 Ronnie Gilbertson  
October 17 Linda Heath  
October 24 Donald Shreve  
October 31 Charlie Woolard

## October Birthdays

October 2 Brenda Godley  
Karen Modlin  
October 4 Leon Norman  
October 6 Nancy Hill  
October 8 Alex Jordan  
October 10 Malissa Waters Griekspoor  
Steven Williams  
October 11 Boots Venters  
October 13 Harriett Stell  
October 14 Larry Schmitt  
October 15 Rod Bowen  
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 Cassandra Gilbertson  
John Jordan  
October 30 Reeves Smith  
October 31 Nicholas Jordan

## Bath Christian Church Family,

Beau and I thank all of you for your prayers and beautiful cards of sympathy and inspiration concerning the recent deaths of his brothers, Alvin and Tommy and my mother, Pearl Sawyer. It is very heartwarming to receive such emotional support. Furthermore, we truly appreciate the kindness shown to us.

In Christian Admiration,  
Beau and Marcia Norman

## ~Announcements~

### October Events

October 3 – 7:30pm	Board Meeting
October 4 – 7:00pm	Study Group- Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven
October 6 – 6:30pm	CMF (Meal)
October 6 – 7:30 pm	Choir Practice
October 7 – 8:00am	Scotty's Breakfast
October 10 – 11:00am	Congregational Meeting
October 11 – 7:00pm	Study Group
October 13 – 7:30pm	Choir Practice
October 14 – 8:00am	Scotty's Breakfast
October 18 – 7:00pm	Study Group
October 20 – 7:30pm	Choir Practice
October 21 – 8:00am	Scotty's Breakfast
October 24 – 11:00am	Kids Pumpkin Creations/Lunch
October 25 – 7:00pm	Study Group
October 26 – 6:30pm	Albemarle District Meeting
October 27 – 6:30pm	Family Night Team 3
October 27 – 7:30 pm	CWF
October 28 – 8:00am	Scotty's Breakfast
October 29 <sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm	Bath CC Community Trunk or Treat
November 1, 8,15	Study Group

### Volunteers Needed

If you are not already on a rotating schedule for Greeter, Nursery, Children's Moment, live streaming, or other church functions, please consider signing up. The more volunteers we have, the rotation will be less.

### Church Bazaar Planning

Plans are underway to hold our church bazaar on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We have been busy making crafts and welcome anyone to show up on Monday mornings at 9:00am at the craft house. Whether you consider yourself "crafty" or not, there is something you can do to help. We want to have a great selection of craft items available for everyone's shopping pleasure so all ideas and suggestions are welcome. Something new this year: Connie Lyon has offered to operate a women's thrift boutique and is asking women to go through their closets to donate new or gently used tops, pants, shorts, dresses, coats – no undergarments. During the CWF meeting last week there was a discussion about a name for the boutique. Approval was made to name the boutique "Myra's Thrift Boutique" in memory of Claudia and Leon's mother. Connie is requesting items be dropped off at Duke and Duchess Coffee Shop – Monday-Friday 6am – 6pm, Saturday 8-4pm and closed Sunday. There will be a laundry cart bin located in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday's 9am – 12pm or you may contact Connie directly at 919-236-3879 or [connieslyon@gmail.com](mailto:connieslyon@gmail.com).

If you have plants you are willing to share for sale at the bazaar, please let Sally LaCava know. For further information contact Sally at 252-947-2934 (c) or 252-964-3441 (h).

Marcia Norman is needing jars for jellies. If you have jars you can share, please bring them to the church fellowship hall or contact Marcia directly at 252-944-3393.

## Eagle's Wings

Eagle's Wings continues to experience a shortage of supplies at this time. Their most critical current need is for canned vegetables. We are collecting non-perishable items for Eagle's Wings and delivering your contributions as often as possible to help during these difficult times. Baskets are inside the fellowship hall door and in both vestibules when you enter the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued and strong support of this mission work in our community.

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

Directory Update: New address – Jessie Brooks, 180 Eureka Ave., Washington, NC 27889. No landline. Cell: 252-945-6362.

## THE SMILE

I had an extra smile  
when I left the house today  
I thought I'd give it to someone  
I passed along the way.  
I tried to give it to someone  
but incredibly  
each time I gave it to someone  
they'd give it back to me.  
So now I have a bunch of smiles,  
what am I to do  
I think I'll keep a couple  
and then give the rest to you!

Mamakinssweet rose of thorns

## DIGNITY

*DIGNITY is the ability  
to stand strong and tall  
in the face of adversity  
while being able  
to bow to the elderly  
and crawl with the children.  
DIGNITY is taking a stand  
for your beliefs  
without closing your mind  
to another's opinion.  
DIGNITY is being an example  
by your deeds  
and through your words  
avoiding gossip, anger and lies.  
DIGNITY will manifest itself in  
the warmth of your smile,  
the depth of your love  
and kindness for your fellow man.*

*Mychal Wynn  
Bwzone.wordpress.com*

You have brains  
in your head  
You have feet in your  
shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
in any direction  
You choose.

Dr. Seuss



Prayer Requests :



**Church Family Prayer Concerns:**

Dick Adams, Claudia Alligood, Sylvia Barnhill, Bill Bertram, Charlie Clark, Ella Mae Smith & Michael Corless, Ann Cullen, Bill Cutler, Liz & Pete Fell, Carolyn Fisher, Cassandra Gilbertson, Beverly & John Holt, Frankie Jordan, Carol Richardson, Linda Shively, Rachel K. Sullivan, Beverly & Ron Tincher, caregivers, & **Unspoken Requests.**

**Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:** Linda Bause; Susan Boyd; Sylvia Boyd, Patsy Browning's nephew; Tilman Carter; Eddie Coltrain; John Conway; Tracy Cordon; Anthony Cutler, Cleve Edwards; Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris Gibbs; Gail Gibbs; Gracie Greer's great grandfather; Steve Jones; Pauline Gurganus; Chris Harris; Hunter Hasty; Barbara Herring; Betty Hill; Bobbie Jean Hobgood; Herman Holiday; Jay Holt; Robby Hopkins, Jo Ann & Mike Isbell; Laney Jordan; Leon Keech; Gerry Klass; Rick Laughinghouse; Linwood Lewis; Deanne & Drew Lutheran; Connie Lyon; Steve Mann; Carol McRoy (Phil's sister-in-law); Patricia Moore; Diana Overton; Susan Overton; Mavis Owens; Wilson Paul; Patricia Smith; Diane Spencer; Bob Spragker, Susie Swinson; Dal Tetterton; Roger Tuning; Patricia Waters; Jay Wickham; Ann Winfield; Wendy Woolard; Janice Wright; & **Unspoken Requests.**

The families of: Paula Ayers, Jay Bishop, Sammy Bowers, III, Sallie Brantley, Kester Carrow, Ronald Carrow, Athalia MacKenzie Cooper, Kathy Council, Lorraine Craig, Amy Crisp, Sheila Dixon, Nicholas Draper, Nancy Douglas, George Fitchett, Comer Griffin, Jackson Griffin, Dennis Harding, Larry Hodges, LaDell Martin, Dr. Marie Mason, Yvonne Midyette, Margaret Moore, Peggy Moore, Tracey & Timothy O'Carroll, Matthew Parker, Herbert Perry, Sr., Gordon Pippin, Emmett Powell, Albert Powers, Mary Ella Respass, Robbie Roberson, Jr., Colby Smith, David Stocks, Melvia Waddell, Elgin Wallace, Julie Wallace, Reba Whitley, Kenneth Wilson, Ken Woolard.

**Please submit news to me  
for the November newsletter by  
9:00 am Friday, October, 22nd. 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)**

**Military Prayer List:**

Jim Bass, Blane Boyd, Chase Brooks, Zack Davis, Grant Fath, Kerry Mills, Grayce Woolard.

**In Nursing Homes:** Pete Fell, Bob Miller.

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