



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

I just finished writing a devotion centered around the town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem, as we know, is the small town where Joseph and Mary traveled to be counted in the census and while they were there, Jesus was born. This seemingly insignificant event changes the world. Yet, for many of us, we seldom think of the events of that night until we near the month of December. Our lives are too busy to allow extraneous thoughts about the birth of Jesus except when it is the proper time for such things. Since we are too busy to think about the birth of Jesus except at the proper time, it is unlikely that many of us have considered the thought and preparation that God put into rescuing us from our sins. In Habakkuk we find that God is too pure to approve of evil. Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor. (Habakkuk 1:13 NASB) The psalmist, also tells us that no evil lives in God’s presence.

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You. (Psalm 5:4 NASB)

We live in a world where we generally do those things we want to do and pursue the things we desire without much thought about God or what is pleasing in His sight. We are not that dissimilar than generations that lived before us. If we read our Bibles, we see that the pages are filled with people turning away from God and only turning back when their choices led to tragic ends. Moses shared the nature of God as we find in Deuteronomy: “For I proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He. (Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NASB)

God, who cannot live where there is evil and who, by nature, is just in His dealings with us had a problem to resolve when He wanted to reconcile His creation and grant salvation. Our sins required that we die (Romans 6:23). Paying for our sins would thus separate us from the presence of God because we would die to pay for our own sins. God worked out the reconciliation through Jesus.

Therefore, He (Jesus) had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:17-18 NASB)

Jesus became our payment (propitiation) for our sins. This is the reason for Jesus coming to earth. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners... (1 Timothy 1:15 NASB)

God has always wanted to enjoy a close relationship with us. Our sins made that impossible. Therefore, God developed and executed a plan whereby we might be saved and have that closeness with God.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, (1 Timothy 2:3-6a NASB)

From the beginning, God’s plan was to rescue us 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, through this baby born in Bethlehem, sent the payment for our sins. This is the Amazing Grace that broke the chains of sin. This is the gospel. This is the good news that transcends all other news throughout the entire history of the world. God’s love is revealed in this baby born in Bethlehem.

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~

Inspiring Christmas Story

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the word everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have lots of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside they closed the door in my face and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling HO-HO-HO! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor! At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no-one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me.

What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon, I Love you! Jesus

-Author Unknown

~Church Board~

The Board of the Bath Christian Church met October 3, 2021. Fifteen members were present. Claude Dupree opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Jamie gave the treasurer's report which was approved on a motion made by Claude Dupree and seconded by Gerald Heath.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Jamie reported on his search for a new computer. No decision has been made at this time.
2. The use of the building was approved for a Blood Drive.
3. Gerald Heath stated that the microphones are not working correctly. He has studied the situation and his opinion is that the lines perhaps are not efficient. Mikes are also needed. His advice is to seek the advice of an informed technician to best improve the needs of the system. Mikes need to be purchased for the choir with proper wiring installed. Leon Wingate motioned to seek the advice of a technician and to install whatever is needed to make the system efficient. Approved.
4. The Worship Committee recommended Howard Robertson to fill the pulpit while our minister is on vacation. Approved.
5. October 26 – the district meeting will be in Bath. The CMF will cook and serve dinner. Details will be addressed at the upcoming Men's meeting.
6. The minister reported forty home visits in the last month. The average attendance for church services is 50. He will be away Oct 16 – 23rd.
7. The Youth Director gave her monthly report.
8. Gerald Morris will be Elder of the week and will serve communion to the Youth who have been baptized.

Meeting dismissed with prayer.

June Wallace, Secretary

~CWF~

The Bath Christian Church CWF met on October 27, 2021 with 15 members present. Those attending were Betty Schmitt, Linda Heath, Nancy Hill, Debbie Smith, Darlene Ormond, Nancy Robertson, Cynthia Stell, Claudia Alligood, Nelda Ormond, Helen Brooks, Jessie Brooks, Rachel Jordan, Jane Alligood, Barbara Morris and Gale Walton.

Barbara won the grab bag.

Claudia began the meeting exclaiming the beauty of fall. Cynthia opened with prayer.

Rachel gave the devotion focusing on intercessory prayer.

Prayer concerns were brought before the group.

The minutes were read. Barbara made a motion to accept as read, Linda seconded and the motion passed.

Nancy Hill will be the hostess for the next meeting. Date to be determined.

Claudia announced that a Sunday School teacher was needed in the four teacher rotation for the class for 5-11 year olds.

Nelda gave the treasurer's report.

George Chrismon has pruned the shrubbery at the church but will wait until December to put out the pine straw.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming bazaar. Hours for the bazaar will be 7:00 – 1:00 with the yard sale closing at 10:30. Some of the ladies will meet at the church next Thursday, November 4 to begin making biscuits to freeze and sale at the bazaar.

Nancy Hill passed around a sign-up sheet for people to be responsible for preparing soup, chicken salad and pimento cheese for the day.

Claudia went over each area of the bazaar explaining the setup and who was in charge of each section.

The meeting was adjourned with the CWF benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Gale Walton



Flower Schedule:

December 5 Advent
December 12 Advent
December 19 Advent
December 26 Advent



Nursery (Little Lion's Class) Schedule:

December 5 Rachel & Cliff Jordan
December 12 Kathy & Tori Dupree
December 19 Connie & Roger Winstead
December 26 Cassandra & Ronnie Gilbertson

Greeter Schedule:

December 5 Claudia Alligood
December 12 Beau Norman
December 19 Barbara Morris
December 26 Phil McRoy

Children's Moment:

December 5 Barbara Morris
December 12 Howard Robertson
December 19 Cantata
December 26 Leon Wingate

Video Operator:

December 5 Charlie Woolard
December 12 Makayla Gilbertson
December 19 Ronnie Gilbertson
December 26 Linda Heath

Serving Schedule:

December 5
Elders: S. Stell & L. Wingate
Deacon of Wk: Stell & Norman
Deacons: B. Norman, R. Smith,
B. Tuten, C. Woolard

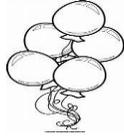
December 12
Elders: L. Wingate & J. Barnhill
Deacon of Wk: Wingate & L. Woolard
Deacons: L. Woolard, C. Woolard
G. Heath, L. Gurganus

December 19
Elders: J. Barnhill & C. Cartwright
Deacon of Wk: Barnhill & Heath
Deacons: G. Heath, J. Jordan,
B. McRoy, B. Norman

December 26
Elders: C. Cartwright & G. Morris
Deacon of Wk: Cartwright & R. Smith
Deacons: R. Smith, B. Tuten,
C. Woolard, L. Woolard

**Kind words can be short
and easy to speak,
but their echoes
are truly endless.**

Mother Teresa



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

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. We need your help.

Eagle's Wings

Eagle's Wings continues to experience a shortage of supplies at this time. Their most critical current need is for canned tomato products, canned soups and 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. Monetary gifts are welcome but do not leave cash. Checks should be made payable to Eagle Wings. Thank you for your continued and strong support of this mission work in our community.

~Announcements~

December Events

Dec. 1 – 6:00pm	CMF
Dec. 2 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men Breakfast
Dec. 5 – 2:00pm	Bath Christmas Parade (youth will have float)
Dec. 5 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 5 – 6:00pm	Cantata Practice
Dec. 5 - 7:00pm	Board Meeting
Dec. 9 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men Breakfast
Dec.12 – 3:00pm	Community Christmas Cantata
(no reception due to Covid guidelines)	
Dec. 14 – 7:00pm	CWF Nancy Robertson's Home
Dec. 17 – 7:00pm	Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 19 - 10:00am	Christmas Cantata
Dec. 24 - 5:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	<u>CHRISTMAS</u>

Please make the church secretary aware of church directory additions/changes. We would also like to recognize you on your birthday if you will contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362 with that information

**A beautiful
face will age
and a perfect
body will change,
but a beautiful soul
will always be a
beautiful soul.**

Backbonepower.com
Dr. Anne Brown Ph.DRNCS



Church Family Prayer Concerns:

Dick Adams, Claudia Alligood, Bill Bertram, Charlie Clark, Ella Mae Smith & Michael Corless, Bill Cutler, Harold Cutler, Beverly & John Holt, Leon Norman, Carol Richardson, Linda Shively, Sarah Stone; Beverly & Ron Tincher, caregivers, & **Unspoken Requests.**

Friends & Community Prayer Concerns:

Doris Alligood; Sylvia Boyd; Pam Butler; Carol Cadle, Tilman Carter; Eddie Coltrain; John Conway; Tracy Cordon; Anthony Cutler, Charlotte Jarman Cutler, Louise Daniels; Pete Fell's daughter; Esther Flowers; Dianne Floyd; Chris Gibbs; Gail Gibbs; Gracie Greer's great grandfather; Steve Jones; Chris Harris; Sandy Hayes, Betty Hill; Bobbie Jean Hobgood; Herman Holiday; Jo Ann & Mike Isbell; Laine Jordan; Rick Laughinghouse; Linwood Lewis; Steve Mann; Carol McRoy (Phil's sister-in-law); Patricia Moore; Mavis Owens; Patricia Smith; Diane Spencer; Bob Spragker, Frances Tankard; Roger Tuning; Linda Vause; Peggy Wallace; Jane Walton; Patricia Waters; Darlene Webster; Jay Wickham; Ann Winfield; Twilla Woolard; Wendy Woolard; & **Unspoken Requests.**

The families of: Dean Andrews, Linwood Adams, Sally Norman Adams, Melvin Blake, Madeleine Blount, Clinton Boyd, Betsy W. Brame, Jay Brinn, Jr., Chris Carawan, Ricky Chandler, Rick Clark, Sharon Ann Dimsdale, Bill Dunn, Pete Fell, Brian Floyd, Tony Garrick, Beverly Harris, Jay Holt, Phyllis Hudson, Daniel Jones, Tammy Kidd, Frankie Kilby, Chuck Latham, George Linton, Drew Lutheran, Alice Nijman, Terre Matthews, Rodney Murdock, Gordon Pippin, Dr. Raeford Pugh, Dwight & Hank Self, Lee Shunk, Sr., Jackie Smith, Sr., Jimmy Soper, Jr., Dal Tetterton, Harry Thompson, Carol Waters, Velma Bridgeman Waters, Murray Whitford, Pat Wood, Brandon Woolard, Donald Ray Woolard, Isabel Worthy.

Military Prayer List:

Jim Bass, Blane Boyd, Chase Brooks, Grayce W. Bunch, Will Cutler, Zack Davis, Hunter Williams.

In Nurs0ling Homes: *Bob Miller.*

**Please submit news to me
for the January newsletter by
9:00 am Thursday, December 17th. Thank you!
You can contact Jessie Brooks at 252-945-6362
or via email: jessiebrooks5@yahoo.com. OR
secretary@bathchristianchurch.com**

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