



## 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 January

Another year has faded into history and a new year is beginning. Many times, we take the first part of January as a time for reflection on things that went well during the past year and to reflect on things that we may want to be different or have different results. One of the things that has become extremely obvious is that several members and families who were once very faithful in their attendance and support for the activities have stepped away from active participation in many congregational activities.

There may be many reasons why this has happened. Some suggest the Covid concerns. This may be part of the problem. However, we have learned how to engage in other activities as we work around the threat of Covid. We wear masks, we take vaccines, we wash our hands with sanitizers, and a host of other precautions. We have learned how to resume most of our activities except our return to church. Some are truthful in their confession that they have dropped the “habit” of church from their routine. Those who admit this typically have not taken any steps to cultivate (or re-cultivate) that habit back into their routine. Sadly, there are some who have hurt feelings. The hurt may come from how someone treated them, either over the Covid or other actions that we felt were inappropriate. With Covid, we may be upset over the way someone reacted. Either they did not take it seriously or they were offended by hurtful comments and actions. Some may be awaiting apologies that may never occur. In other situations, we are upset over someone not agreeing with our opinions on a host of issues. Whatever the reasons, let us take some time at the beginning of a new year to look at the issues from what God expects of us rather than what we feel or expect.

We read in the opening chapters of Acts about the beginning of the church. Peter stood and openly proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah to a group of people who had either allowed or openly called for the crucifixion of Jesus. This was not a politically correct stand but a truthful statement of fact. The result is shared as Luke records the events in Acts.

**So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:41-42 NASB)**

In this passage, we find that early Christians were devoting themselves to teaching and fellowship. Fellowship encompasses more than just showing up occasionally (when it suits our schedules). The word Luke used is the Greek word **κοινωνία** (koy-no-neh'-o) and means partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction -- (to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship. (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*)

Luke’s wording and the definition indicates an active participation where the new Christians ate together, visited together, and shared with those in need. As we continue to read from this chapter, we find the fellowship was daily and included home visits as well as gathering in places of worship. Christianity is not a solo endeavor. Christianity requires interactions with church members. It involves both corporate worship as well as social interaction.

**Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47 NASB)**

The fact that we are told that **the Lord was adding to their number**, would seem to indicate God’s approval of the acts of communal fellowship and coming together.

During the last two years, we have become very comfortable in staying away from the fellowship of the local congregation. We have the worship service available on line and we justify our choices. Our priorities have changed and we no longer have the fellowship that marked the early church. We now miss much of what we

enjoyed in the pre-Covid days. As a result, we find that we are more polarized and miss much of what only the congregation can provide. We miss the closeness of brothers and sisters in Christ.

The idea of people not attending the active work of the local congregation is not a new phenomenon. The writer of Hebrews shared these words: **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25 NASB)**

The writer of Hebrews highlights another reason for corporate worship. We can **stimulate one another to love and good deeds**. Just being around other Christians can and does encourage us to be more Christlike. Jesus told us that the world would know that we are His disciples by our love (John 13:35). Coming together as a congregation helps us draw closer together in love. We should welcome opportunities to come together. We should look forward to those times when we meet for worship and fellowship

Let us make this one New Year's resolution that we actually keep and return to the assembly for times of worship and times of fellowship.

## ~Devotion~

### A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us,  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace

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## ~Church Board~

The Bath Christian Church Board met November 5, 2021. Chairman Starley Stell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Eighteen members and two visitors were present. Claude Dupree opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the October board meeting were read and approved. Jamie Barnhill gave the treasurer's report which was approved on a motion made by Pearson Chrismon and seconded by Reeves Smith. In addition Jamie distributed copies of the Church financial contributions for July 1-September. A motion to approve this document was made by Leon Wingate and seconded by C.M. Cartwright. Motion was approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Starley reported Jamie lacks \$200 for a new computer as approved at a previous meeting.
2. Even though the use of the building has been approved for a Blood Drive, Jim has not received any information on when it will be held.
3. Gerald Heath reported he has not heard back from the technician he contacted about the updated wiring and microphones needed in the sanctuary.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. The ordination of Elders and Deacons will be held the last Sunday of November. (November 28, 2021).
2. Board officers will be elected at the December meeting.
3. Claudia Allgood addressed the board about concerns that were in the Youth Committee letter which was in the November church newsletter. Discussion followed.
4. The minister made fifty-one home visits in the last month. He also reported the October 26 Albemarle District Meeting held here was poorly attended. Five churches were represented by only 25 people.

5. The youth director gave her monthly report including an update on the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The youth met after church and made up fifty boxes to kick start the annual collection. For the upcoming CWF Bazaar, the youth will be doing crafts and will be greeters at the entrance.

The meeting dismissed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky McRoy for June Wallace

## ~CWF~

There was no November meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday. The next meeting will be in December date to be determined.

Classy is  
when you  
have a lot to say  
but choose  
to remain  
silent in front  
of fools.  
Pinterest

~CMF~

The CMF of Bath Christian Church met Wednesday December 1, 2021. Twelve members were present and they were C. Dupree, J. Cullen, M. Alligood, L. Schmitt, R. Smith, S. Stell, B. Hill, R. Winstead, G. Morris, G. Heath, J. Barnhill and P. McRoy.

Cooks for the evening were Gerald, Gerald, Jamie and Roger. Thanks extended to the cooks for a fantastic meal.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with one correction. The financial report was given and approved.

Gerald Morris gave the devotion about celebrating our Savior and forgiveness. We forgive but don't forget. There are endless number of times we should forgive. How many times has God forgiven us for the same sin?

**Business Meeting**

--Cooks for January meeting Stell and Wingate. Will be under Moe Shack and everyone should bring an oyster knife.

--Voted and approved to make financial contributions for Ruth's House, Eagles Wings and Social Services.

--C. Dupree agreed to head up a team of Jamie, Larry and Gerald Heath to paint the nativity scene.

--Kitchen guidelines discussed and will be addressed at next Board Meeting.

--Selection of new CMF Chairman and Reporter for next term. No one would step forward. Tabled until next CMF meeting.

Prayer concerns were listed. J. Cullen closed the meeting with prayer.

Billy Hill, Recorder

**Video Operator:**

- January 2 Donald Shreve
- January 9 Charlie Woolard
- January 16 Makayla Gilbertson
- January 23 Ronnie Gilbertson
- January 30 Linda Heath



**Flower Schedule:**

- January 2 Rachel Jordan
- January 9 Cynthia & Starley Stell
- January 16 Cassandra Gilbertson
- January 23 Terry & John Everett
- January 30 Sylvia & Jamie Barnhill

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

- January 2 Jessie & Helen Brooks
- January 9 Barbara & Gerald Morris
- January 16 Sandra & Claude Dupree
- January 23 Cynthia Stell & Rachel Jordan
- January 30 Debbie Smith & Claudia Alligood

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**Greeter Schedule:**

- January 2 Marcia Norman
- January 9 Rachel Jordan
- January 16 Alice Wingate
- January 23 Brenda Godley
- January 30 Becky McRoy

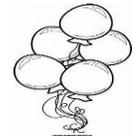
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**Children's Moment:**

- January 2 Nancy Hill
- January 9 Claudia Alligood
- January 16 Alex Shreve
- January 23 Makayla Gilbertson
- January 30 John LaCava

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## Serving Schedule:

January 2

Elders: G. Morris & H. Robertson  
Deacon of Wk: Morris & Gurganus  
Deacons: L. Gurganus, G. Heath,  
J Jordan, B. Norman

January 9

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

January 16

Elders: J. Barnhill & C. Cartwright  
Deacon of Wk: Barnhill & Jordan  
Deacons: L. Gurganus, G. Heath,  
J. Jordan, B. Norman

January 23

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

January 30

Elders: S. Stell & L. Wingate  
Deacon of Wk: Stell & Heath  
L. Gurganus, G. Heath,  
J. Jordan, B. Norman

*The World would be a  
nicer place if  
everyone had the  
ability to love as  
unconditionally as a  
Dog.*

*Journeysmobilevet@gmail.com*

## January Birthdays

January 1	James Shively
January 3	Marla Waters
January 4	Tina Clark
January 5	Makayla Gilbertson
January 6	Jamie Barnhill
	John Everett
January 10	Cynthia Stell
January 12	Nancy Robertson
January 16	Pearson Chrismon
January 24	Jean Mink
	Hunter Williams
January 28	Jim Cullen
	Ronnie Gilbertson
	Sally LaCava
January 31	Sylvia Barnhill

## 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~

### January Events

Jan. 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Jan. 2 – 7:00pm	Board Meeting
Jan. 5 – 6:00pm	CMF (all men are encouraged to attend)
7:30pm	Choir Practice
Jan. 6 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men's Breakfast
Jan. 12 – 7:30pm	Choir Practice
Jan. 13 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men's Breakfast
Jan. 19 – 7:30pm	Choir Practice
Jan. 20 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men's Breakfast
Jan. 26 – 6:30pm	Family Night – Team 4
7:30pm	CWF (all ladies are encouraged to attend)
Jan. 27 – 8:00am	Scotty's Men's Breakfast

Church Directory Update:

Barbara & Gerald Morris new mailing address:  
PO Box 69, Bath, NC 27808

**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**

*If you always  
do what you  
always did, you  
will always get  
what you  
always got.*  
Albert Einstein

*Today I shall  
behave as if  
this is the day  
I will be  
Remembered.*  
Dr. Seuss

*“One of the advantages  
of being disorganized  
is that one is always  
having surprising  
discoveries”.*  
Winnie the Pooh

**“People say nothing  
is impossible, but I do  
Nothing every day.”**  
Winnie the Pooh

*Prayer Requests :*



***Church Family Prayer Concerns:***

Dick Adams, Claudia Alligood, Bill Bertram, Charlie Clark, Michael Corless, Bill Cutler, Charlotte Jarman Cutler, Harold Cutler, Beverly & John Holt, Frankie Jordan, 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, 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: Linda (Sam) Abeyounis, Lane Alligood, Evelyn Brewer, Wilbur Dean Campbell, Margie Cox, Ophelia Cutler, Jane Evan, Morgan Harris, Helen Jackson, Karen Bond Johnson, Margaret Alligood Mobley, Richard Paszt, Carnie Lyn Rowe, Lyman Sheppard, Ella Mae Godley Smith, Gladys Spivey, Robert Squires, Fritz Tanner, Sr., Stacey Thalmann, Priscilla Tyree, James Wilkins, Kathleen Briley Whitley, Ann Winfield.

***Military Prayer List:***

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

***In Nursing Homes: Bob Miller.***

**Please submit news to me  
for the February newsletter by  
9:00 am Thursday, January 20th. 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)**