

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
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From the Pastor's Desk

Grace and Peace to you this day, friends and family of Bath Church!

I am writing this less than a week after the terrifying events in Charlottesville, VA, and I doubt it will be old news or unnecessary by the time you are reading it because there seems to be an awakening in our culture right now. We seem to be coming alive to the concept that we're getting our words right, we're learning to say the right thing and be politically correct, but we have a long way to go in terms of getting our actions and behaviors toward other humans to mirror our polite words.

By coincidence, our Sunday Worship Confession for the past few months has been the Belhar Confession, which was written in response to Apartheid in South Africa. In combination with the Confession of 1967, which was written in response to Nazi Germany, these confessions speak to where our denomination stands on racism and injustice in the world. They are both beautifully written, by committee; we say the right things! Now...the challenge for us as Christians is for our deeds to line up with our words. We need to pray that the Spirit will equip us to embody the resistance to white supremacy and racism and not simply say that we are against these evils. After all, faith without works is dead.

The words we use in our Presbyterian baptisms cannot go without notice either. As we are beginning our formal Christian journey, we are asked "trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do

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you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?" Isn't our baptism where it all begins? Isn't Baptism the foundation of all Christian ministries of justice and reconciliation? Each time we enter into our worship space at Bath Church, we see our font with water in it and are invited to remember our baptism. Part of remembering our baptism is to remember our calling to renounce and resist evil in all its forms — including the evil of racism. Baptism is a sign of equality as Paul taught. Christ breaks down divisions between us. In many ways, baptism represents our initiation into God's realm of justice, righteousness and peace where we are joined with the multicultural multitude of those God has redeemed.

We say it, now let's do it! Let us live daily as baptized Christians fulfilling our earliest vows. And let's do it together. The church is this amazing place where willing, faithful people come together to do God's awesome work!

May this conversation be alive and well at Bath Presbyterian Church!

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Emily



Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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Clerk's Corner

As the summer months draw to a close session looks forward to the many events and opportunities coming up at Bath Church. Rally Day on September 10th will kick off our move back to the regular worship time of 10:45 am.

Our sister church, Faith Presbyterian, used our facilities for their session retreat. We are pleased to be able to provide them with the space to worship and grow together spiritually as a session, while also meeting to envision new ideas for their congregation. There was no cost to Faith and they have graciously offered their church free of charge for our next session retreat.

Faith Presbyterian Church has also invited those who were a part of the Bath Book Group to join their monthly Sweet Communion Book Group. The former members of Bath Book Group have agreed to participate with Faith in this special fellowship. We read a specific book then gather to discuss the book and enjoy dinner together followed by Holy Communion. For us this is one great way to reach beyond our walls to connect with other Presbyterian Churches. We are living into the covenant of our Presbytery.

At the July session meeting Susan Lockwood was elected as commissioner for the September Presbytery meeting which will be held at Huntsville PC.

Reverend Dwight McCormick came to the August session meeting to visit Bath Church Session on behalf of Leadership Council. He discussed our connection with Presbytery and

how important that was. Dwight mentioned that although he was preaching to the choir, even the choir needs practice sometimes. It was a good discussion and session thanked him for taking his time in coming to see us.

Pastor Emily is back from two weeks sick leave since having her tonsils taken out. She will be taking study leave on October 7th and 8th as she attends a Wee Kirk event. She will also be on study leave October 10th and 11th as she goes to Chicago for the Presbytery Sexual Misconduct Committee training.

Bank balances as of July 31st: Checking account - \$24,780.54; CDs - \$70,091.36; Money Market - \$15,336.06; Vanguard Wellington - \$95,188.53; Total monies - \$205,396.49

Holy Communion is now being served by full intinction. There is the main choice to dip the bread in the chalice. Jeff has sliced the bread into larger pieces to dip the bread without touching the juice. This worked perfectly for Communion on August 20th. There are also 8 small personal cups available for special situations.

Having a Bath Church Mission Statement was among the many things discussed at session retreat. At the August session meeting session approved the new mission statement which is:

Connecting through Christ's love. Growing in God's grace. Serving where the Spirit calls. The clerk is looking into the cost of having new Bath Church t-shirts made with the Presbyterian symbol on the front, Bath Presbyterian Church

under the symbol, and then our mission statement on the back of the t-shirt.

Another upcoming event will be a Family Game Night with our sister churches. Fellowship will head this up and decide on a few future dates that might work well. Pastor Emily will be in touch with Maggie Gillespie at Faith and Karen Cassedy at First in Fairborn.

Pastor Emily will be holding another Bible Study following worship on November 5th, 19th, 26th, and December 3rd. More information to follow.

Many good things will be happening in the coming months at Bath Church. A couple of weeks ago you were asked during the sermon – What water is God expecting you to walk on? We step forward in faith each day knowing Jesus has our back. Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tip toe if you must, but take the step. How else will we fully become the people God wants us to be? How else will we, together, be the church God needs in this time and place? Take that step of faith.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Mission

Mission is as simple as seeing a need & if we can help to act on it. I feel that Bath's missions are opportunities for your choice. I don't expect you to donate to all the missions but to choose which ones you feel passionate about. The mission program is always open to your thoughts. I will be asking you to help by completing a survey on our local missions and how you feel about each one. Thank you to all who brought paper towels in for the Dayton Humane Society and to Ella for heading it up. Our current missions are Peace & Global

Witness and the fall Kairos. Jesus has no hands or feet but ours.

Dayton Humane Society Mission

The Dayton Humane Society has a mission to engage the hearts, hands, and minds of the community to help animals. Their vision is to compassionately and responsibly create a more humane world for animals.

At Bath Church we partner together in creative ways to show our passion for mission. Each of you wears the title of humanitarian. Through our mission of helping the Dayton Humane Society we are working to show respect to all living things. Our church provides compassion, defends the abused, and fights for recognition of integrity for animals.

We are Bath Church, we love all things, and we know God calls us to care. Our arms stretch out and help those who need it most– even those with four legs and paws. You are a hero for animals who need help. This year we surpassed our goal of 200 rolls of paper towels, and have a total of 218 rolls collected. This is a years' worth of paper towels for them to use. Cat food and dog food was also donated. Your generosity will be very appreciated by the Dayton Humane Society. Together we are helping those who work with the smallest of God's creatures in our community. On behalf of the mission committee we thank you for another successful year in helping the Dayton Humane Society.

Let this be our prayer together as a church for the Dayton Humane Society: Mighty and tender God, maker of all living creatures, we respond to your call to go and help in your world. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. We are mindful of our responsibility to care for them. May we learn the

value of kindness, the power of mercy, the strength of gentleness, and a new spirit of humility. We are on this journey together with you, Lord. May we feel your peace. Amen.



Thank you,
Ella

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder

Human Trafficking

If you have seen the news lately for Dayton, there have been large signs put in the area malls about "Forced Labor" which is the words the local police have chosen to get our attention. They want to educate the youth because certain individuals are more vulnerable than others. The vulnerable include those bullied, in the welfare system, runaways, homeless and those with substance abuse problems. With our local drug epidemic, trafficking is a problem we are seeing increase as well. Hotline number is 1-888-3737-888.

Worship

On Sunday September 10, worship starts back at the regular scheduled time of 10:45 am. On Sunday September 3, JO Miller will bring us a special worship of "Hymns and Scripture"! Be sure not to miss this special service.

Coming in future worships;

- New music responses for the "Call to Worship in Music" and "Prayer Response"
- "Rally Day" on September 10
- World Communion Sunday October 1
- Reformation Sunday on October 29
- All Saints Day Sunday on November 5

We look forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Jeff Whitaker

Worship Session Elder

And the Worship Committee Members

Christian Education

Wow! I can't believe the time has gone so quickly! We've all enjoyed the summer version of our multigenerational Sunday School & early Worship.

Soon, September 10th to be exact, the schedule will change again. Breakfast will be at 9AM. We will still have the multigenerational class, with the addition of the video class at 9:30AM. Worship will return to the 10:45AM time slot.

Please join us on that date to greet & cheer the new season! See you there,

Judy Morin

Christian Education Session Elder



WOMEN'S GATHERING NEWS

Month of August Collection

THANK YOU for the donations of items for the hygiene kits for the Samaritan Homeless Clinic.

We participate in this project throughout the year and donations are accepted at any time.

Delivery to the Samaritan Homeless Clinic

Twenty three hygiene kits, new items (including large size toiletries, underwear, shoes, hats, etc.) and used clothing were donated.

Deliveries to Clothes That Work and Goodwill

Clothes were given, including new items.

Monday September 11th - Activities from 10am-3pm

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and make crafts, including baby items. At 2pm we will study Lesson #1 of our NEW Bible study "Cloud of Witnesses", a study of Hebrews, from the Horizons magazine.

Stitches of Love Baby Shower at Bath on Sunday September 27th after Worship

Join us for a baby shower at Bath which includes a potluck lunch and tying baby blankets. We will then deliver these gifts to the Stitches of Love annual baby shower on October 7th at Memorial PC.

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Scripture Focus
SEPTEMBER 2017
Ordinary Time

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
John 14:5-7

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

- 1. Do you identify with Thomas when he said to Jesus, "How can we know the way?"
- 2. How has Jesus shown you truth? How has Jesus given you life? How has Jesus shown you the way?

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PC (USA) News

An article in the July issue of Outlook says that PC (USA) membership continues to decline, but the losses have slowed down. In 2015 we lost almost 89,900 members which was the lowest loss since 2011.

The number of PC (USA) congregations declined by 191 to 9,451, but the number of congregations dismissed to other denominations declined to 99, which is the fewest dismissals since 2011. Those 99 churches accounted for almost 30,000 members.

The racial composition of PC (USA) congregations remains unchanged at 90.93 white, 3.46 African-American, 2.94 Asian, 1.4 Hispanic. Those numbers do not reflect participation in new worshipping communities, which are not formal PC (USA) congregations.

A total of 151 of the 170 presbyteries in the PC (USA) contain 15,000 or fewer members. Three presbyteries reported membership growth: Atlantic Korean, Nevada, and Western Colorado.

The total number of ministers in the PC (USA) declined by 356 to 19,721. The total number of ordinations declined by 34 to 215. However, the number of candidates for ordained ministry increased by 21 to 653.

The largest presbyteries are Greater Atlanta, Grace (Texas), Charlotte, National Capital, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Hope (N.C.), Salem (N.C.), and Coastal Carolina.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Emily on vacay	2 Emily on vacay
3 Session prayer time Hymn sing in worship Coffee and Donuts Emily on vacay	4 Emily on vacay Bob C. Brittany B.	5 Larry B. Al B.	6	7	8	9 Val Quinn using F.H. for mission work Jeff W. Emmaline F.
10 Property Committee Meeting following worship	11 Bob P.	12 Presbytery Meeting 4:00 pm Huntsville PC	13	14	15 Janet and J.O. go to Poland for Habitat for Humanity International	16 Susan L.
17 Holy Communion Session Meeting Carolyn C.	18	19	20 Abbie K.	21 Verna and Paul D.	22	23
24 Stitches of Love Baby Shower Jackie B.	25 Janet and J.O. return!	26	27 Mouse Input by NOON John B.	28	29	30