

## ***Bath Church Mouse***

**Bath Presbyterian Church  
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News Input to: Janetoptimist@aol.com**

December 2017

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

Christ's Peace Bath friends and family!

This month marks the holiday season. The time to be grateful and generous. All our prayers are recognition of all our blessings and praying that God be bountiful to those who are not as blessed. We pray that we might be a small part in God's plan to care for the needy. But is that realistic?

Poverty plays a major theme as we read the Bible. Deuteronomy offers commandments of how to care for our neighbor, biblical prophets denounce oppressing the poor, The Gospels proclaim bringing good news to the poor, and Paul's epistles instruct the followers to offer mutual solidarity through the collection for the poor. The Bible reminds us over and over that God hates poverty and has commanded us to end poverty by forgiving debts, raising wages, outlawing slavery and restructuring society around the needs of the poor. Jesus spent his last few days on earth reminding his followers that he's going to be killed for bringing God's reign to earth, and it is their responsibility to continue the quest for justice. This is our charge. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor. We are not called to eliminate poverty, we are called to continue Christ's quest for justice. As we give generously this holiday season, let us be mindful of why we give and whose mission we're continuing and how we can respect and uplift all of God's creation of humanity.

Blessed Advent!  
Pastor Emily

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## **Annual Bath Church Christmas Dinner**



**Sunday, December 10  
Immediately following Worship**

**Invite your family, friends and  
neighbors!**

**Sign-up sheets are on the table in  
the narthex.**

## Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

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### **Clerk's Corner**

Session approved the church budget for 2018 at the November session meeting. The budget shows a deficit of \$7,927.66. There is money available to cover the deficit, and this will be reflected on the budget to show a balanced budget for 2018. This is a concern for session as this trend began last year. The budget for 2018 has been cut by more than \$3100 from previous years since our income will be less.

Bank balances as of October 31st: Checking account - \$35,547.06; CDs - \$70,139.28; Money Market - \$15,338.76; Vanguard Wellington - \$98,594.60; Total monies - \$219,619.70

The Clerk's Annual Questionnaire was received. Session provided input for the questions and approved the information. Answers were submitted online. The Statistical Report was also reviewed, and it will be submitted online at the end of this year.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> following worship service, with a back-up date of February 4<sup>th</sup> in case of bad weather. Annual reports need to be given to the clerk of session no later than January 7<sup>th</sup>.

The new Bath Presbyterian t-shirts and polo shirts have arrived. They have the new mission statement on the back and the PC(USA) symbol on the front. There are a few extra t-shirts for anyone interested.

Please note that the Church Christmas dinner will be right after worship service on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Emily will be on vacation and out of town December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please

call the clerk with any pastoral needs during that time.

Anyone may post Christmas cards on the main bulletin board in the annex. Bath Church Session wishes everyone a wonderful and meaningful Advent season.

Gidget Collins  
Clerk of Session

### **Fellowship**

Our Christmas Dinner this year is on December 10 at noon, after the worship service. The sign-up sheets are on the back table. Bring your favorite dish and invite your family and friends to come. We just need to know your total headcount. Have them be here at noon- or attend church with us- and we'll all enjoy our holiday meal.

Wishing you all the joys of this wonderful season, and looking forward to good times in 2018!

Susan Lockwood  
Fellowship Session Elder

### **Property**

**Budget passage** : At its November meeting, Session approved Bath's budget for 2018! Recommendations from the Admin & Finance Committee along with committee chairs allowed removal of expenses totaling over \$3,000! Additionally, Session prepared for creation of a "Helping Hands/Comfort Care" fund to better serve the Bath family and community. While the budget's bottom line indicates an anticipated deficit, the financial standing of the church remains healthy and prosperous. Bath has a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to in 2018!

**Kitchen appliance upgrade:** Before the new year, Bath's kitchen will receive brand new, stainless steel appliances! New Fridgeaire ranges with quick convection ovens, dishwashers, microwaves, and refrigerators will bless the many social and mission events held at Bath! Moreover, these new appliances will provide a needed upgrade for our wonderful cooks and bakers!

Ethan Johns  
Property Session Elder

## Mission

We had a mission meeting where the survey results were looked at & discussed. Thank you to all who gave us feedback on how we are doing.

For November, we donated 76 boxes to Operation Christmas Child with Deb & Abby and their families doing about 30 more.

The upcoming missions for late November & December are Adopt a Family, where we will have two families from Greene County Children the local F.I.S.H., a goat through Heifer, and a collection of water jugs & school supplies for refugee children through Presbytery Mission Agency. This is an excellent way to honor those in your family or friends that might not need or want anything for Christmas other than to be thought of and blessed by such a gift. We will sell \$10 shares for each area and provide cards for you to give the recipient.

Verna Drake  
Mission Session Elder



*Advent: A Season of Waiting*

## Human Trafficking: The misery continues while others celebrate

Especially in this season of Advent, we absolutely cannot forget that other humans are held as slaves, even in our midst. Each of us needs to be constantly vigilant for such situations. To help, we need to know three things: 1) What is it; 2) Who to report it to and 3) What the red flags are.

- What it is: Human trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others

- Who to contact: The hotline number is: 1-888-373-7888.

- Some red flags include:

A. Their physical condition. 1. Are they branded with tattoos or bruised. 2. Are they malnourished or showing signs of confinement, torture or drug use.

B. Their location. 1. Barred windows, locked doors, opaque windows, barbed wire, electronic surveillance. 2. Not seen leaving the premise unescorted. 3. Stream of men arriving & leaving premises. 4. Small children serving in family restaurants. 5. Older males checking into hotels with younger girls.

Do your part to stop this problem.  
Watch & report.

## Worship

On Sunday December 3, we are excited to be celebrating the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Throughout the month, Pastor Emily has special services planned with scriptures and sermons. Our wonderful musicians will play familiar Christmas music; and on December 17, Sharon and the Bath Actors are performing a drama that definitely will prepare you for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Christmas Eve is on Sunday December 24. We will have the 10:45am service and the Christmas Eve 7:00pm Candlelight service. What a special night it will be!

Have a Merry Christmas!  
The Worship Committee Members!



## Women's Gathering

### Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> Harvest Bazaar and Flea Market

We had a very successful day! Thanks for the flea market items and all your support!

### Raffle

Verna is selling raffle tickets for: a Christmas quilt made by Verna, \$25.00 gift certificate for the Country Store at Carriage Hill from Maudie, a red/white/blue afghan from Ann and a beauty bag filled with goodies from Jack. The drawing is at the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Bazaar at Tecumseh School

We have two booths to sell our crafts. Some unsold items will be available for purchase at

church for a few weeks. The WG has been busy this year making crafts to fund our MANY charities. We appreciate your support!

### Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party at 6:00 pm

All ladies are invited for a time of fellowship. We will enjoy a potluck dinner. Help decorate the "Blessing Tree" with hats, gloves, scarves or socks for the Samaritan Homeless Clinic. Share the warmth of God's love!

### Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> - Activities from 10am-3pm

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and make scarves for the homeless. At 2pm we will study Lesson #4 of our Bible study.

Scripture Focus  
DECEMBER 2017

### Advent

O Emmanuel "God is with Us"  
Matthew 1:21-23

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

1. Jesus, God-in-flesh, is with us always. In what ways have you experienced God with you?
2. How can we share the story of Emmanuel, with those who feel alone or abandoned?



# BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## December 2017

◀ Nov 2017

Jan 2018 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Brian S.	2
3 Session Prayer Time Coffee and Donuts Bible Study	4 Pam Byrd using F.H. 6 – 9:30 pm	5 W.G. Christmas party  Sharon and Tim C	6 Sweet Communion Book Club @ Faith PC	7 Bible Study  Norma H.	8	9
10 Church Christmas Dinner after worship	11	12	13  Chris P.	14	15	16 Children's Play rehearsal
17 Children's Play Session  Hazel P.	18  Bill W.	19	20	21	22  Barbara and Clyde S.	23
24 Christmas Eve Service at 10:45 Holy Communion @ A.M. service  7:00 pm candlelight service  Aven F.	25 Christmas Day  Emily on vacation through January 1 <sup>st</sup>	26	27  Mouse Input - Noon	28	29	30
31 Gidget Collins pulpit supply	<b>Notes:</b>					