

Bath Church Mouse

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

January 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy and prosperous New Year to the Bath Church Family!

I pray that this new year will be a season of renewed energy, vision and mission at Bath. Hopefully, our journey through Advent and Christmas 2018 has now set the course of our ministry into 2019. The way of hope, peace, joy and love takes us into the neighborhoods of our lives to meet Christ in the people and situations we encounter there. We do not simply celebrate one day – Christmas – but we celebrate the message of Christmas all year long – the good news that God is with us and goes with us as we begin a new year of life and of life together in ministry. I appreciate all the feedback, stories, and insights from our Advent journey together from those who attended our Advent noon prayer services and from those of you who engaged in the home Advent devotional materials. God was clearly at work in you all. I hope we will continue to find ways to fellowship, worship and pray together in this new calendar year.

As announced in worship, we will soon be transitioning in Session as new Elders take on their new responsibilities as committee chairpersons. We also have a major transition coming up as our impactful, diligent and beloved Clerk of Session, Gidget Collins, steps down in February and we orient our new Clerk and redistribute roles of Clerk in partnership with the committee chairs and the Pastor. One transition that we are beginning now is that all pastoral concerns including:

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- Prayer list/chain concerns
- hospitalizations
- upcoming surgeries
- deaths

will go through the Pastor, and no longer through the Clerk. My contact information can be found in the bulletin each week:

Rev Emily Haddox
emily_haddox1@gmail.com
(937) 903-8188

When I am on vacation or at a Continuing Education event, I will give the pastoral on-call pastor's information directly to you all instead of sending issues through the Clerk.

We, as Session, realize that this change will take a while to be our habit, so all Elders are also available to help address pastoral concerns and make sure the prayer chain gets started and persons who need and desire pastoral care are tended to.

Joyous Blessings of a New Season!
Pastor Emily

2019!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"...straining forward to what lies ahead..."

Phil 3:13

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

•Clerk's Corner•Property •Worship •Fellowship •Christian Ed/Media •
Mission and Outreach•Finance/Admin

Clerk's Corner

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation, and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation, and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives." - From Connections -

The audit of the 2017 church books was completed by a committee of J.O. Miller (chair), Brad Hitchcock, and Brian Swingley. J.O. wrote the letter to session and included the recommendation that an outside church audit be done. The WG books will also be checked by J.O. and is expected to be done by the end of January. Letters of thanks will be sent out to the team from session.

Treasurer Steve has done a great job simplifying the finance report. Session is very grateful to him for his diligent work.

Training for elder-elect Deb Hitchcock will be done on Thursday, December 20th with Pastor Emily and Gidget Collins. Installation of the Class of 2021 will be done during worship on January 20th.

Susan Lockwood will chair the 2019 Nominating Committee and Judy will serve on the committee. Three more members will be elected from the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27th.

Session annual reports are due to the Clerk by January 6th. Look for annual report booklets to be on the annex table by January 20th.

Any pastoral prayer concerns will now go through Emily, and she will send out Eblasts with email addresses hidden. Emily will make this announcement from the pulpit and in the newsletter. When Emily is on vacation or study leave she will let the congregation know who is covering for emergencies. Calling the pastor-on-call is for actual emergency situations only.

There is discernment of who will be doing some of the session areas for 2019. Presently, Sharon will be doing worship, Judy will do property, Susan will do fellowship, and Ethan will do finance. Deb and Verna will decide who will be doing CE and mission.

The statistical report for our church was approved by session. It will be entered online soon. Many thanks to our treasurer Steve Mast who quickly put together the financial information that was needed for the report. Within a day he sent all the stats needed. The Clerk is tremendously grateful for his diligence.

Bank balances as of November 30th: Checking account - \$43,578.02;
CDs - \$70,308.33; Money Market - \$35,355.38;
Vanguard Wellington - \$103,306.68;
Total monies - \$252,548.41

Session is grateful to all the people who help to provide assistance for Bath Church with food, clean-up, cards, donations, pledges, music, child care, bulletins, newsletters, photos, mission work, building needs, fellowship,

worship, CE, and prayers to keep God's church running at a steady pace. Thank you for making sure details are done and deadlines are met.

We are the children of the light, and we are asked to put on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. Together God gives us the tools for church work, and the heart to draw closer to Him. It is with deep appreciation at this Holy time of year session wishes all the members and friends of Bath Church a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2019.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session

Mission

I wish everyone who helped shower our adopted family from Greene county Children Services with Christmas gifts could have seen their surprise and pleasure. The family was covered with God's love at a time when they thought that Christmas was going to be small and limited. Instead thanks to the love of the Bath family they were overwhelmed with gifts of both wishes and needs. There were two carloads of gifts. The new baby received a crib and sheets and blankets. Also a stroller and a snowsuit thanks to many donations. The two boys received warm coats and toys. Even the father & mother were blessed with gifts. They also received food to have a nice Christmas dinner. Thank you to all who gave their time & money to make their Christmas special. The alternative Christmas gifts were also a big success with \$340 being raised for different worthy missions. What a way to end 2018.

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder



Women's Gathering

Many thanks for the kind words from the editor in the December newsletter.

Jan. 7, 10-3

We will study lesson #4 of the Bible study. We will enjoy a potluck lunch and make scarves for the homeless. The scarves include mostly cutting and tying so come tie one on with us!

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If we have the Spirit of God in our hearts we will live by His law of charity, inclined always to peace rather than dissension, to humility rather than arrogance, to obedience rather than rebellion, to purity and temperance, to simplicity and quietness and calm, to strength, generosity, and wisdom to prudence and all-embracing justice, and we will love others more than ourselves, for it is the commandment of Jesus that we should love one another as he has loved us.

None of these things can be done without prayer, and we must turn to prayer first of all, not only to discover God's will but above all to gain the grace to carry it out with all the strength of our desire.

From *No Man is an Island*
by Thomas Merton

Bath Presbyterian Church

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Susan and Rick L.	3	4 Aaron S.	5
6 Annual Reports due to clerk Coffee and donuts	7 W.G. meeting 10 - 3	8	9	10	11	12
13 Holy Communion	14 Dianna W.	15	16 Sweet Communion Book Club at Faith Presbyterian Church 6pm	17	18	19
20 Install Class of 2021 Session Meeting Dan G.	21 Pam Craft Group	22 Harris F.	23	24 Worship Committee Meeting	25	26 Val Quinn using Friendship Hall with My Brother's Keeper Mission Group
27 Annual Congregational Meeting Donna S.	28	29 Madeline H.	30	31		