



*Bath Christian Church, Inc.
PO Box 300
Bath, North Carolina 27808*

Pastor's Corner

October 2026



There are times in life when the answer isn't to work harder, push harder, or simply try harder. Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is stop long enough to sharpen the edge. Ecclesiastes 10:10 says,

"If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed." It's one of those little verses tucked away in Scripture that we could easily read right past, but the picture Solomon gives us is incredibly practical. A man can keep swinging a dull axe. He can put more force behind it, sweat more, strain more, work longer, and eventually he may even accomplish what he set out to do. But the problem isn't that he needs more strength. The problem is that his edge has become dull.

And here's what I've noticed about things that tend to get dull in life. They don't usually announce themselves in some dramatic way. Most of the time it shows up quietly. We get irritated by things that used to roll off our backs. We lose patience with people a little faster than we once did. Decisions that used to seem clear suddenly feel cloudy. We become harder to impress, harder to move and harder to surprise. Gratitude gets thinner. And that sense of wonder we once had toward some of the ordinary things and moments in life starts to fade. Things that once mattered deeply to us become so familiar that we hardly notice their value anymore. It doesn't mean something has necessarily fallen apart. Life may still look pretty normal from the outside. But little by little, without ever realizing it, we've started making up for a dull edge by swinging harder.

That's what makes Solomon's picture still so useful to us today. A dull axe still looks like an axe. It still has a handle and still has weight. You can still pick it up, swing it, and from a distance nobody may ever know there's a problem. But the person using it knows. Because now, it takes more effort to get less done. What once felt clean and purposeful now feels heavy. And here's what I've discovered; life can get that same way too. We can get so used to pushing through things by sheer determination that we don't stop to consider whether the problem is really a lack of effort at all. We don't need more force. We need a renewed edge.

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And here's the encouraging part. Solomon doesn't tell the man to throw the axe away. He doesn't say it's useless because it's gotten dull. He says it needs sharpening. Because dull doesn't mean finished, worn doesn't mean worthless and a season when we've lost a little clarity, sensitivity, joy, patience, or focus doesn't mean God is finished with us. It may simply mean there are some places in us that need His attention again.

But sharpening requires honesty. At some point you've got to admit the edge isn't what it used to be. You've got to stop swinging long enough to actually look at it. Sharpening means being willing to notice what we've grown accustomed to, what we've allowed to wear down and what we've stopped paying attention to. Sometimes the hardest thing isn't recognizing that we're tired. It's recognizing that something in us has changed. The edge has become rougher. Our reactions are different. Our outlook has narrowed. And before anything can be sharpened, it first has to be brought into the light.

A dull axe can still make plenty of noise. It can still leave marks on the tree. It can even look like a tremendous amount of work is being accomplished. But wisdom knows there's a difference between a lot of motion and actually being effective. So maybe the question for October isn't, "How can I do more?" Maybe the better question is, "Lord, where have I become dull?" Because sometimes wisdom doesn't tell us to swing harder. Sometimes wisdom says it's time to sharpen the edge.

Questions We Can Ask Ourselves This Month

Where have I become more easily irritated than I used to be?

Has my patience become dull?

Has my compassion become dull?

Has my gratitude become dull?

Have I become so familiar with the blessings around me that I hardly notice them anymore?

Is there an area of my life where I'm using more force when what I really need is a renewed edge?

What might God be trying to sharpen in me during this season?

Prayer for October-

"Lord, show me the places in my life that have grown dull. Help me notice what I've stopped noticing, where my patience has worn thin, where my gratitude has faded, and where I've been trying to push harder instead of letting You renew me. Give me the honesty to recognize what needs Your attention and the humility to let You sharpen what has become worn. Restore clarity where things have become cloudy, compassion where I've become hardened, and wonder where life has become too familiar. Help me walk through this month with a renewed heart, a clearer focus, and a greater sensitivity to Your presence in my life. Amen."

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Harry & Jennifer

A Prayer for Autumn Days

By Joyce Rupp

God of the seasons,
there is a time for everything;
there is a time for dying and
a time for rising.
We need courage to enter
into the transformation pro-
cess.

God of autumn,
the trees are saying goodbye
to their green,
letting go of what has been.
We, too, have our moments
of surrender,
with all their insecurity and risk.
Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground,
our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth,
may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights,
there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives.
We always need to recognize your power-filled presence.
May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain,
many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender.
We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.
Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season,
your wisdom enables us
to know what needs to be left behind
and what needs to be carried into the future.

We yearn for insight and vision.
God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs,
may your love keep our hearts
from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life,
you believe in us, you enrich us,
you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.
For all this, we are grateful.

Amen.



Join us for Sunday School at BCC

Sunday School Message for October

Sunday School Message for October

In its fullest sense, God's light is the full revelation of His Word—the written Word of Scripture and the living Word of Jesus Christ. As the light of the world, Jesus is telling us to proclaim God's light in a world engulfed in darkness, just as our Lord came, Luke 1:79, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Christ is the true light and we are His reflections.

God did not give the gospel of His Son to be the secret, hidden treasure of a few, but to enlighten every person, John 1:9, "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." Just as God offers His light to the whole world, so must His church. It is not our gospel but God's, and He gives it to us not only for our own sakes but also the entire world's.

Everyone is invited to join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall where we get together to worship God by studying His infallible Word.

Each week, we examine Scripture to illuminate the majestic truth presented in the Word of God.

Sunday School Topics for October:

October 4: A Renewed Covenant – Joshua 24:18-27

October 11: A Faithless Generation – Judges 2:6-15

October 18: An Unlikely Deliverer – Judges 3: 15-23,30

October 25: A Lack of Instruction – Judges 17:1-6; Judges 18:18-19, 27



Bath Christian Church



Annual
Fall Bazaar
& Yard Sale

Saturday, November 21, 2026



6:30 AM – Breakfast Biscuits



7:00–11:00 AM – Yard Sale



7:00 AM – Bazaar Items:

Canned Goods, Baked Goods,
Soup & Sandwiches, Crafts,
Christmas Items, Knives,
Raffle Drawing



Everyone is welcome — bring a friend!

1. Great migration led by Moses
4. Old Testament ruler who spared King Agag
6. Old Testament leader in charge of city reconstruction
7. One of the four major prophets of the Old Testament
10. He struck a rock to provide water for his people
11. Founder of the twelve tribes
12. A regal figure featured in ancient Hebrew scripture
13. He established a covenant with God after the flood
15. Ancient city dweller who saved spies
16. Biblical servants of God
17. A biblical series of disasters that befell Egypt under Pharaoh's rule
19. Biblical figure whose family was saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
20. Divine verdict
21. Biblical act of liberation, as told in the Old Testament
26. Spokespersons for God

2. Ancestor of King David
3. Old Testament character who saw a vision of four creatures
5. The quality of being wise or knowledgeable
8. Portable sanctuary
9. Genesis chapter 4 tells his story
10. Biblical leader who championed social justice
14. Ancient entities tasked with divine protection
17. Warriors of Gaza
18. Old Testament sacred bond
22. Philistine woman who betrayed a judge
23. The man who tested God with a fleece and dew
24. A biblical leader who was taken up by a whirlwind
25. Ancestor of King David
27. The act of seeking God's mercy
28. He wrote about a locust invasion as a divine judgment



BCC will collect shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child November 16 thru 23. During this week boxes may be dropped off at the church and placed on table in Mailbox Room. November 22 is collection Sunday.

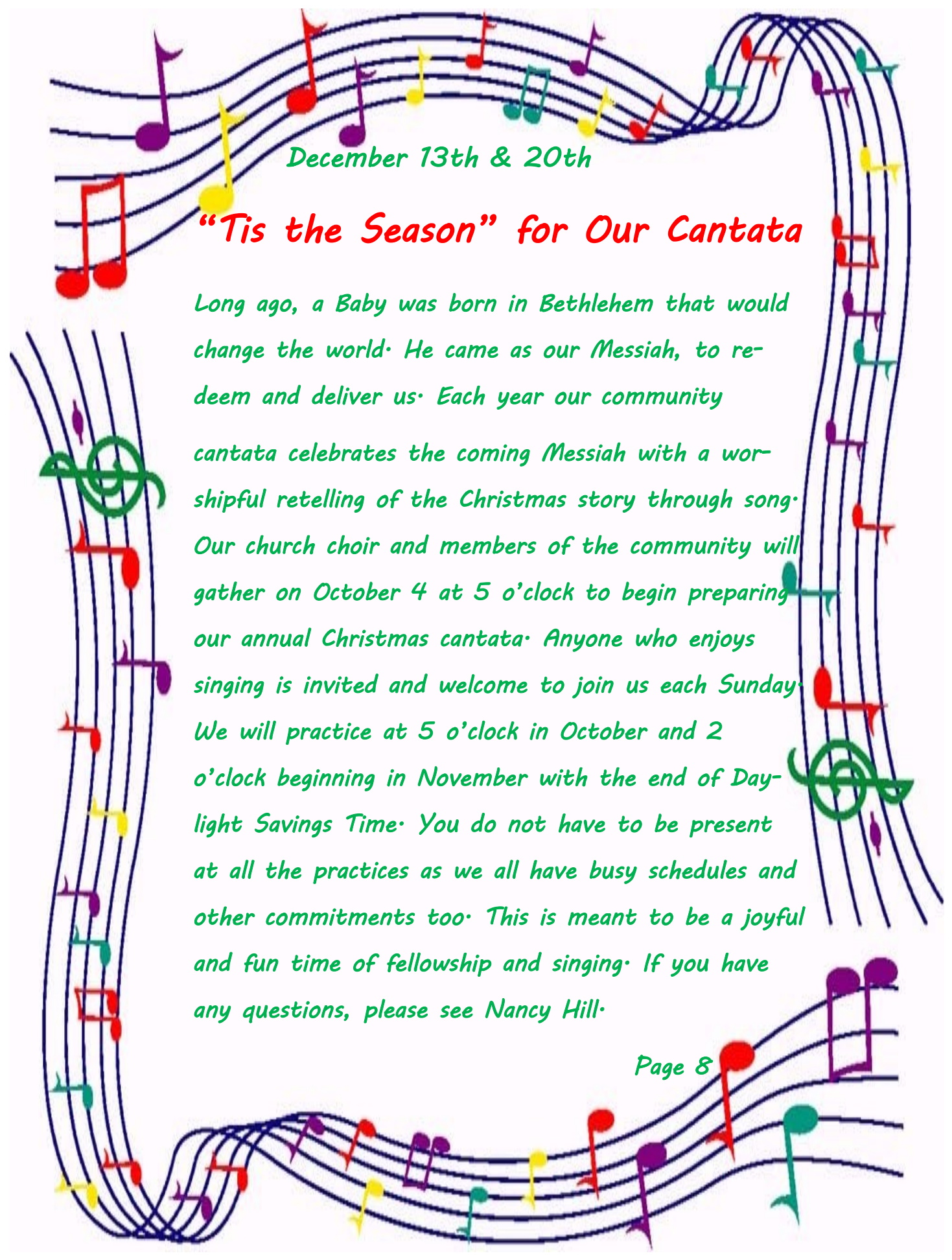
Many of you have been very generous and supportive of our shoebox project in the past, but some of you may not know a great deal about this outreach endeavor. Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, a worldwide outreach program begun by Franklin Graham in 1979, Operation Christmas Child sends gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children around the world.

We hope that each family in our church will prepare at least one shoebox. We are blessing children who would not receive anything at Christmas with toys, gifts, and most especially the gospel. Our goal is 100 boxes.

Shoeboxes are located on tables in the fellowship hall, mail room, and vestibules. Brochures with suggestions for filling shoeboxes and labels are in the vestibules. You can also go to www.samaritanspurse.org for more information and to print labels.

"Go and do likewise, Christ commanded after explaining the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. So we do. Samaritan Purse travels the world's highways looking for victims along the way. We are quick to bandage the wounds we see, but like the Samaritan, we don't stop there. In addition to meeting immediate, emergency needs, we help these victims recover and get back on their feet. No matter where we go or what we do, we offer more than help. We offer hope. To suffering people in a broken world, we share the news of the only One who can bring true peace—Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace." -- Franklin Graham

Submitted by Nancy Hill



December 13th & 20th

"Tis the Season" for Our Cantata

Long ago, a Baby was born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah, to redeem and deliver us. Each year our community cantata celebrates the coming Messiah with a worshipful retelling of the Christmas story through song. Our church choir and members of the community will gather on October 4 at 5 o'clock to begin preparing our annual Christmas cantata. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited and welcome to join us each Sunday. We will practice at 5 o'clock in October and 2 o'clock beginning in November with the end of Daylight Savings Time. You do not have to be present at all the practices as we all have busy schedules and other commitments too. This is meant to be a joyful and fun time of fellowship and singing. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Hill.

Starley Stell opened the meeting, and Louis Gurganus gave the opening prayer.

The minutes were reviewed and approved (motion, Jane Alligood; second, Howard Robertson).

The financial report was given by Jerry Walton. The report included the expense for the Youth Lunch and installation of the TVs. The report was approved (motion, Leon Wingate; second, Billy Hill).

Old Business

501(c)(3) —Jane Alligood reported that there had been no returned calls or information concerning our application.

Keith Kidwell was contacted and said he needed a copy of what had been submitted. Form 1023 had been filed, but it did not include a signature. The attorney was not available. The motion to progress with Keith Kidwell was approved (motion, Claudia Alligood; second, Leon Wingate).

Jerry Walton questioned how to pay for this service; the response was a business expense.

AED —AEDs have been installed. Rachel Jordan or someone will demonstrate the use of the machine at the next Family Night.

Flocks —Gerald Morris will contact Becky Tuten.

TVs —Leon Wingate reported that the TVs have been installed, are working, and the installation has been paid for.

Youth Lunch —When the Youth go out for lunch, Harry or Brenda will pay for the meal and submit a ticket to Jerry Walton for reimbursement.

New Business

Revival —The Revival will take place on September 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Homecoming will be on October 4.

The Worship Committee submitted three names for consideration as Revival speaker: David Sawyer, Billy Ray Askew, and Glen Crocker, from the list submitted by the church congregation.

The Board selected David Sawyer (motion, Jane Alligood; second, Howard Robertson). Howard will call David. Starley will talk to the Homecoming Committee.

Maintenance —It was suggested that we fix or replace all four windows in the front door of the Annex. The Board suggested that we fix only the broken window. If the problem continues, the other windows will be replaced.

Security for Annex —Reeves Smith recently handled an unexpected visitor in a very professional manner. Billy Hill will talk to Reeves about the doors to the Annex.

Billy Hill gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Claudia Alligood

**Please remember
 Eagles Wings &
 Purpose of God
 During this giving
 season !**

Christian Womn's Fellowship

October 28 7:00 PM

Christian Men's Fellowship

Next Meeting Oct 7, 6:00 PM



Family Night

*Team 5
 October 28 6PM*

Wednesday



BINGO

October 5 12 Noon!

It's All About Jesus!

**BCC will be collecting
 Operation Christmas Child
 Shoeboxes**

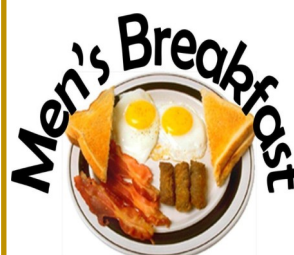
**Check out Samaritan's
 Purse Page 4 in this
 Newsletter!**



Movie Oct 13 Tues

2:00PM Reminder!

*Items for Eagles Wings
 & Purpose of God*



Every

Thursday

8:00 AM

CWF Meeting September, 2026

Bath Christian Church CWF met September 23rd with 15 ladies present: Claudia Alligood, Alice Wingate, Darlene Ormond, Cynthia Stell, Jane Alligood, Gale Walton, Patty Selby, Mary Lynn Edwards, Yvonne Waters, Rachel Jordan, Barbara Morris, Polly Gurganus, Sandra Dupree, Margie Tankard, and Nancy Hill.

While waiting for those on Family Night team to arrive, Claudia noted that painting of the church will begin September 24; outside doors and door frames and wrought iron railing at front doors and columbarium. She reminded all ladies to have their pews and windows cleaned before revival if you have not already done so.

Claudia called the meeting to order. Darlene opened with prayer. Alice shared a devotion based on the story of Judas. She noted that if we open our Bibles and turn to the scripture "Judas hung himself" we need more information to understand the complete meaning of this verse. We should not just "pull out" a passage of scripture without knowing what comes before and after. We need to know the whole story for a proper understanding of Bible teachings. She gave everyone a scripture card to take home, reminding us that the scriptures are our source of strength every day.

Patty prayed for the prayer concerns and offering.

Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. Gale gave the treasurer's report, noting 2 expenses since the last meeting, one being for bazaar craft supplies.

Business:

1. Homecoming & Revival: Revival music in place for all 4 nights. Chicken and ham will be provided for the homecoming meal; tent will be in place outside for eating.
2. Bazaar: Tables are needed for the yard sale. Contact Rachel Jordan if you have tables that can be borrowed. The group agreed for Claudia to contact Sam Brickhouse about purchasing twenty 8' long tables for use at the yard sale to be stored for church use when needed. Alice stated there has been great response for the raffle and there are 12 items on the ticket. There will be a time set after tickets are printed for cutting and stapling tickets in bundles of 10 for selling.

3. Community need: A motion was made and seconded that a monetary donation be given to a community person facing health issues and undergoing treatments at this time. Everyone approved the motion.

Claudia's question of the night: "When you think about homecoming, what does it mean to you? Responses included memories of childhood meals with dinner on the grounds; eating either standing or sitting on blankets; chicken wire covered with table cloths brought from home with everyone's specialty dishes; traveling back to home churches and visiting with family and friends we haven't seen in a long time; and the most important homecoming being that of going home to be with our Heavenly Father where many of our family are now.

We adjourned with the CWF benediction.

Nancy Hill/ Reporter

BAZAAR NEWS The women of our church have been diligently working to prepare for this year's fall bazaar and yard sale on Saturday, November 21st.

The yard sale begins at 7:00 a.m. and bazaar doors also open at 7 o'clock. This year's bazaar features home-baked and canned goods, arts and crafts, needlework, Rada cutlery, holiday décor, and a raffle. Yard sale items include furniture, tools, cookware, bedding, jewelry, and household novelties. Sausage and cheese biscuits will be sold beginning at 6:30 a.m. in the Moe Shack behind the fellowship hall. Homemade soups and sandwiches will be served throughout the day until 1:00. Soup, chicken salad, and pimento cheese to go will be for sale also.

Volunteers are always needed that week to help set up the fellowship hall and gym, prepare food items for the bazaar lunch and bake sale, greet visitors, and sell raffle tickets. EVERYONE's help is needed Saturday afternoon after the bazaar ends as the fellowship hall must be ready for use on Sunday morning. The money raised from the bazaar is used for local community outreach and service projects. What a wonderful way to share God's love and spend the day together in genuine Christian fellowship.

Everyone is invited to come be a part of this exciting day in the life of Bath Christian Church.

Submitted by Nancy Hill

CMF Minutes

The CMF of Bath Christian Church met September 2, 2026 with 9 members attending. Present were L. Schmitt, G. Morris, John P., B. Hill, G. Heath, R. Winstead, L. Gurganus, L. Wingate and R. Smith.

Leon called the meeting to order and offered prayer for the meal. The meal was prepared by Heath, Morris and Winstead. A great meal of fried catfish was enjoyed by all.

Gerald Morris gave the devotion about character. If you take care of your character, your reputation will take care of itself. Personality is what you show when you are around others, character is what you do when alone. Only you know the true nature of your character. Look within and see what kind of person you will find.

Business Meeting

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Financial report given and approved.

Voted to help out a person receiving chemo and unable to work.

Cooks for October are Wingate, Schmitt, Hill and Stell.

Cooks for November are John P., R. Smith and Dupree.

Prayer concerns discussed. Meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by Billy Hill

Bazaar Raffle News

Raffle Tickets \$1.00

**Some Amazing items have been donated
by our Church Members!**

**Get you ticket to win one of these great
prizes.....Lap Quilt, Quilt, Sewing**

Machine, Painting, Hand Carved Walking

**Stick, 3 Lovely Handcrafted Pens, \$100 Ribeye's Gift Card, \$100
CASH, \$50 Food Lion Gift Card, \$100 Food Lion Gift Card,**

\$100 Blackbeard's Gift Card.



Church Family Prayer Concerns:

Jamie Barnhill, Chase Brooks (heart procedure delayed), Dana Brooks, Becky Tuten, Eunice Robbins, Jon Sadler, Larry Schmitt, June Wallace, Roger Winstead & unspoken requests.

Friends & Family Prayer Concerns

Dianne Ashby 6/14
Bonnie Boyd 9/27
Lisa Clarke (Trevor Crawford's
Daughter)
Kenya Clements 8/9
Glenda Douglas
Lee Drake 8/2

Mike Godley 6/21
Ruth Jones 9/27
Kevin Jordan 6/21
Joel Larcombe 9/27
Linda Minnick 6/24
Winnie Moss 8/30
Donnie McLawhorn 9/6
Sherry Neal-6/21
Brandi Robbins 7/1

Gwen & Harry Slade
Mike Slade
Jackie Smith (Harry's Mom)
Paige Stafford-3/29
Barbara Woolard 8/9
Twila Woolard 8/9
US Military & Government & Unspoken

The Families of: Elizabeth Andrews, Nathaniel Draper, Doris Hollis, Gary Jackson, Daisy Latham, Judy Lovitt, Frankie Modlin

**College: Alex Woolard, 2500 University Hts.,
UNCA Box 7729, Asheville, NC 28804**

Military:

Chase Brooks, Will Cutler, Hunter Williams, Ryan Cornelius

In Nursing Homes:

John Everett, Bobbie Jean Hobgood, Clarence Cook

Ridgewood Nursing Home

1624 Highland Dr.

Washington, NC 27889

-Glenda Boyd Room 103 Sandra Dupree Sister-in-law

-Nelda Ormond Room 202

River Trace Nursing & Rehabilitation

Carolyn Fisher Mother of Lesley Woolard

Rm 318

250 Lover's Lane

Washington NC 27889

Sunrise of Cary

Carol Richardson

1206 W. Chatham Street, Room 105, Cary NC 27513