
BATH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

Pastor's Thoughts

“When Seasons Shift”

There's something about May you can't ignore. You feel it before you even notice it. The mornings are warmer, the days stretch a little longer, and the heaviness of winter begins to lift. Something in creation starts to wake up again. Trees don't debate whether they should bloom, and they don't hold onto dead leaves out of fear. When the season changes, they respond. And May is when you begin to see it—not just the change, but the evidence of it. What was bare starts to fill in, what looked lifeless begins to show color, and what seemed dormant finally starts to bloom.

But here's what we often forget—the bloom didn't start in May. It started in the unseen months before. It started in the cold, in the waiting, in a season where it looked like nothing was happening. Beneath the surface, something was developing. Roots were going deeper. Strength was being built. Life was preparing to break through. And that's how God works in us. What we are just now beginning to see, God has often been working on long before it ever becomes visible.

The challenge is that we don't always respond to change the way creation does. We can feel God shifting something in our lives and still cling to what's familiar. We hold onto old mindsets, old hurts, and old fears—even when God is clearly doing something new. And the truth is, sometimes the greatest resistance to what God is doing next is what we refuse to release from what He already did. The

writer of Hebrews reminds us in Hebrews 12:11 that “no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” In other words, what feels uncomfortable now may be producing something you can't yet see.

That's the tension of a new season. When God begins to shift things, it doesn't always feel like growth at first. Sometimes it feels like loss. Sometimes it feels like pressure. Sometimes it feels like everything familiar is being unsettled. But what if that's exactly how God prepares you? Some of us are still trying to hold onto a version of life that God has already moved us beyond still replaying what was said, still carrying what was lost, still defining ourselves by what we went through. But growth doesn't happen by revisiting the past; it happens by responding to what God is doing now.

Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:6–7 that though we may be in heaviness for a season, the trial of our faith is producing something of far greater value. That phrase matters—*for a season*. What you're walking through has boundaries. It has a purpose. And it has an end. God never wastes a season, even the difficult ones. What you're in right now may not be comfortable but it is not meaningless.

It is shaping you, refining you, and preparing you. And sometimes what He's removing is just as important as what He's producing.

Jesus said in Mark 2:22 that no one puts new wine into old wineskins, because the structure can't hold what's new. That's not just about tradition—it's about capacity. God won't pour something new into a life that's still structured around what used to be. So the question this month isn't just what God is doing, but what in us has to change so we can carry what He's doing. Because you can't step into a new season with an old structure.

May is more than a change in weather—it's a reminder. A reminder that what you're starting to see now, God has already been working on for longer than you realize. So don't dismiss the small signs of life. Don't overlook the early blooms. They are evidence that something deeper has already taken root. And when seasons shift, God is not disrupting your life—He's developing it.

Things to Ponder This Month

1. Where in my life do I sense God is shifting something, even if I don't fully understand it yet?
2. What am I holding onto that may have been right for a past season, but is keeping me from stepping into this one?
3. Am I recognizing the small signs of growth God is producing, or am I overlooking them because they don't look the way I expected?
4. What might God be developing beneath the surface I cannot yet see?

A Prayer for the Season

Father, thank You that You are always at work, even when I cannot see it. Thank You that You are a God of seasons, and that every season has purpose in Your hands. Help me to trust You not only in what is visible, but in what is being formed beneath the surface. Give me the courage to release what no longer belongs in this season of my life, and the faith to step into what You are doing now. Shape my heart so that I am not resisting Your work, but responding to it. And remind me that even the smallest signs of growth are evidence of

Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Harry & Jennifer



Mother's Day Devotion

"Love That Never Leaves"

Mother's Day can be a beautiful day...
and a tender one.

For many, it brings warm memories—
a familiar voice, a comforting hug,
the way she smiled, laughed, or prayed for you.

But for those whose mothers are no longer here,
this day can carry a quiet ache.

An empty chair.
A conversation you wish you could still have.
A "thank you" you'd give anything to say one more
time.

And yet... love like that doesn't disappear.

In 1 Corinthians 13:8, we are reminded:
"Love never fails."

The love your mother gave you—
the kindness, the lessons, the faith she poured into
your life—
still lives on.

It shows up in the way you care for others.
In the values you hold.
In the strength you didn't even realize she helped
build.

And even more comforting...
she is safely held in the presence of the Lord.

There are no more tears there.
No more pain.
Only peace.

This Mother's Day, it's okay to smile at the memo-
ries and still feel the tears. Because grief and grati-
tude often walk hand in hand.

So take a moment today—
to remember, to give thanks, and to honor her life.
Because a mother's love...
is never truly lost.
It simply changes where it lives.

Lord,

We thank You for the gift of our mothers
and the love they shared with us.
For those we miss today, bring comfort and peace.
Wrap us in Your presence
and remind us that love never ends.
Amen.

*"Those we love don't go
away... they walk beside us
every day"*



A Memorial Day Devotion

“Serving in faith, remembering with gratitude”

Memorial Day arrives quietly, like a gentle pause in the rhythm of life. It invites us to stop, to remember, and to give thanks—not just in words, but deep within our hearts.

We remember the brave men and women who gave everything so that others might live in freedom. Their sacrifice is not just history—it is a gift we continue to receive every single day. Because of them, we gather freely in worship, hug our loved ones a little tighter, and wake each morning with hope.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— *John 15:13*

On this day, we honor that kind of love—the kind that reflects the very heart of Christ.

But Memorial Day is also a time to reflect on another sacrifice—the ultimate one. Jesus laid down His life for us, not only to give us freedom in this world, but eternal life in the next. His love assures us that even in loss, there is hope. Even in sorrow, there is peace.

So as flags wave and memories stir, may we hold close both gratitude and grace. May we thank God for those who served, comfort those who mourn, and live each day in a way that honors the sacrifices made for us.

On Memorial Day, let us remember

To give thanks.....

And let us walk in the freedom—both earthly and eternal—that has been so lovingly given.



Christian Women’s Fellowship

Meets May 27, 7:00PM

Christian Men’s Fellowship

Meets May 6 Wednesday 6:00PM



Family Night

May 27

6:00 PM

Team 5



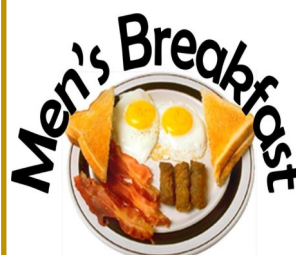
BINGO

Bingo 12 Noon May 4 Monday

No Movie in May

Due to Women’s Dinner

Stay Tuned for June!



Every Wednesday

8:00 AM

Christian Men's Fellowship

April 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Starley Stell, President. In attendance was: Starley Stell, Michael Alligood, Reeves Smith, Roger Winstead, Gerald Heath, Gerald Morris, Hank Flowers, John Picarello, Phil McRoy, Fred Hill, Claude Dupree, Louis Gurganus, Billy Hill, Larry Schmitt, Leon Wingate, and Dick Adams.

Gerald Morris gave the devotion. He stated that we will all die but if we believe in Christ we will not die.

The prayer for the meal was given by Starley Stell. Roger Winstead, Gerald Heath, and Gerald Morris were the cooks.

The minutes were read and approved except for a correction in the listing of the cooks. Gerald Morris was the cook rather than Billy Hill.

The financial report was given by Billy Hill.

Old Business: Billy Hill, Starley Stell and Gerald Heath completed the proposed project at Mrs. Sanderson's house.

New Business: A yard cleanup for Nelda Ormond was scheduled. Mrs. Ormond will be in the nursing home for at least 21 days. The group voted to pay for a professional group to clean her roof. The group also voted to provide dinner for the Celebration of Women in May.

Cooks for the May CMF meeting will be Starley Stell, Leon Wingate and Billy Hill.

Health and Happiness Report:

Special prayers for Pearson, Connie's sister, and Reeves Smith.

Dismissed with prayer by Claude Dupree.

Reporter: Mike Alligood



Sunday School Message for May

As our knowledge of God Word increases, the Holy Spirit renews our mind and transforms our thinking. As we gaze into the glory of the Lord as revealed in Scripture, 2 Corinthians 3:18, tells us, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. And to quote Colossians 3:10, "and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." 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 feeding on His infallible Word, our Lord's "mental food". Each week, we examine Scripture to illuminate the majestic truth presented in the Word of God.

Topics for May:

May 3: Christian Expectation of Grace; Jonah 3:1-5; Jonah 4:6-11.

May 10: Work as Christian Duty; Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; John 9:4; Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12.

May 17: Christian Manner of Justice; Deuteronomy 24:14-21; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

May 24: Christian Rhythms of Life; Mark 2:18-28.

May 31: Living in Christian Community; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 10:22-25.

CWF Meeting

March 25, 202

Bath Christian Church CWF met March 25, 2026 with the following ladies present: Claudia Alligood, Yvonne Waters, Patty Selby, Alice Wingate, Darlene Ormond, Debbie Smith, Gale Walton, Jane Alligood, Mary Lynn Edwards, Sarah Stone, Becky Tuten, Polly Gurganus, June Wallace, Cynthia Stell, Rachel Jordan, Barbara Morris, and Nancy Hill.

Claudia called the meeting to order and Debbie gave the opening prayer.

Jane shared a devotion about what we eat at Easter, specifically focusing on the meal prepared for Jesus' last supper with the disciples. Jesus used different elements of the meal to symbolize his sacrifice. Before eating he washed their feet, symbolizing servant-hood. She listed each food eaten at the meal and the meaning of each one. She also shared that they were probably sitting on the floor, leaning on their right side toward a low table. In discussion it was shared that a former minister, Don Steffa, had prepared this type of meal for our church's first Maundy Thursday service. Claudia has also done this in the past for Sunday School.

Prayer concerns were shared and Sarah prayed for them. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. Gale gave the treasurer's report, noting that the biannual donations in the budget had been delivered to those organizations. Follow up discussion from February meeting to add another organization to our annual budget of giving. Alice made the motion to give the same amount as is being given to others in our budget and Mary Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Items of business.

Business:

1. Patty requested that a food collection basket for Purpose of God be placed in the fellowship hall with the Eagles' Wings baskets. It was noted that the food donations for Eagles' Wings has significantly dropped off from the past. Everyone is encouraged to donate to both organizations as there are many people in need in Beaufort County.

2. Claudia asked for volunteers for a committee to meet and plan Celebration of Women banquet. Members of the committee are Darlene, Patty, Yvonne, Nancy H, Gale, Debbie, and Jane.

3. Everyone was reminded to have the pews and fellowship hall windows cleaned before Easter Sunday. A list is posted outside the fellowship hall in entryway to the church of the pew and window assignments.

Claudia's question of the night was a follow-up to Barbara's devotion for family night prior to our meeting. She asked everyone "how can we let our light shine?" Cards, compliments, being friendly, volunteering, checking on people, and seeing the positives in everyone were some of the shared responses. We should strive to make sure our light is shining every day.

We adjourned with the CWF benediction.

Nancy Hill, reporter

CWF Meeting

April 22, 2026

Bath Christian Church CWF met April 22, 2026 with the following ladies present: Claudia Alligood, Yvonne Waters, Patty Selby, Alice Wingate, Darlene Ormond, Debbie Smith, Gale Walton, Mary Lynn Edwards, Becky Tuten, Cynthia Stell, Rachel Jordan, Barbara Morris, and Nancy Hill.

Claudia called the meeting to order. Darlene gave the devotion based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. She noted that while we all strive for independence, we can't do it all by ourselves. The resurrection calls us to recognize our need for God's intervention in our lives. The resurrection represents unity and power. We (women) are a community within our church. We work and do things together which keeps us unified in the body of Christ.

Prayer concerns were shared and Debbie prayed for them and the offering. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. Gale gave the treasurer's report. There were no expenditures in April and one monetary donation was made to community outreach.

Business:

1. Celebration of women May 20:

Signup slips are in pew holders. **Deadline for signing up is May 17.** It was suggested to have someone make the dessert so all the women can enjoy the banquet without doing food prep. Patty moved to ask Debbie Cherry to make the cakes and Darlene seconded. Motion carried. Patty will contact Debbie.

2. Committees: Claudia read through the active committees of the CWF. They are

1) celebration of women banquet, 2) bereavement meals, Debbie and Brenda co-chairs 3) cleaning of windows and pews, Alice as coordinator/reminder, 4) shut ins Christmas bags, Debbie, chairman., 5) nominating committee – Claudia asked Cynthia, Debbie, and Barbara to serve this year. She also asked those who are willing to continue serving as officers to let them know.

We were all reminded to reach out to church family who are in need. A monetary donation was approved by unanimous vote for a need in our community. Claudia will follow up to find out more specific info for this.

Claudia's question of the night was "what do we do to keep joy in our hearts?" Many thoughts were shared including texting the homebound, maintaining contact with children/youth, being involved in activities we enjoy, sharing time with family, friends and pets, reading a good book, walking, singing and reading the Bible.

We adjourned with the CWF benediction.

Nancy Hill, Reporter



March 1, 2026

Bath Christian Church Board Minutes

Starley Stell called the meeting to order, and Beau Norman gave the opening prayer.

The minutes were reviewed, corrected and approved (motion, Leon Wingate; second, Beau Norman).

The financial report was given using bank numbers. The report was approved (motion, Claudia Alligood; second, Howard Robertson).

Old Business

501(c)(3) – Our contact person for the application process for 501(c)(3) non-profit status said she would contact a lady at the IRS.

Outreach – It was decided to leave decisions about the Bayview home on hold.

TV's – Johnathan Brooks is currently very busy with work and with Dana's health needs. He will hang the TV's as soon as he can.

WDN Church Announcements – Claudia went back to the WDN office to correct our church's designation in the Saturday church news section.

New Business

Electronics – Gerald Heath cleaned out a closet that contained quite a bit of unused electronic equipment. He offered to put it on E-bay, and the board agreed (motion, Jane Alligood; second, Beau Norman).

Concert – The young people in our church attended a concert in Raleigh with Jennifer

Smith. The Board agreed to pay the expenses for the concert and meal (motion, Jane Alligood; second, Mark Aydlett).

Sunrise Service – Sunrise Service is scheduled for Bonner Point at 7:00 am on April 5. Claude Dupree will take care of the coffee and donuts, reserve Bonner Point and erect the cross.

Board Meeting Time – The regular board meeting will begin at 7:30 pm during daylight saving's time.

No minister remarks.

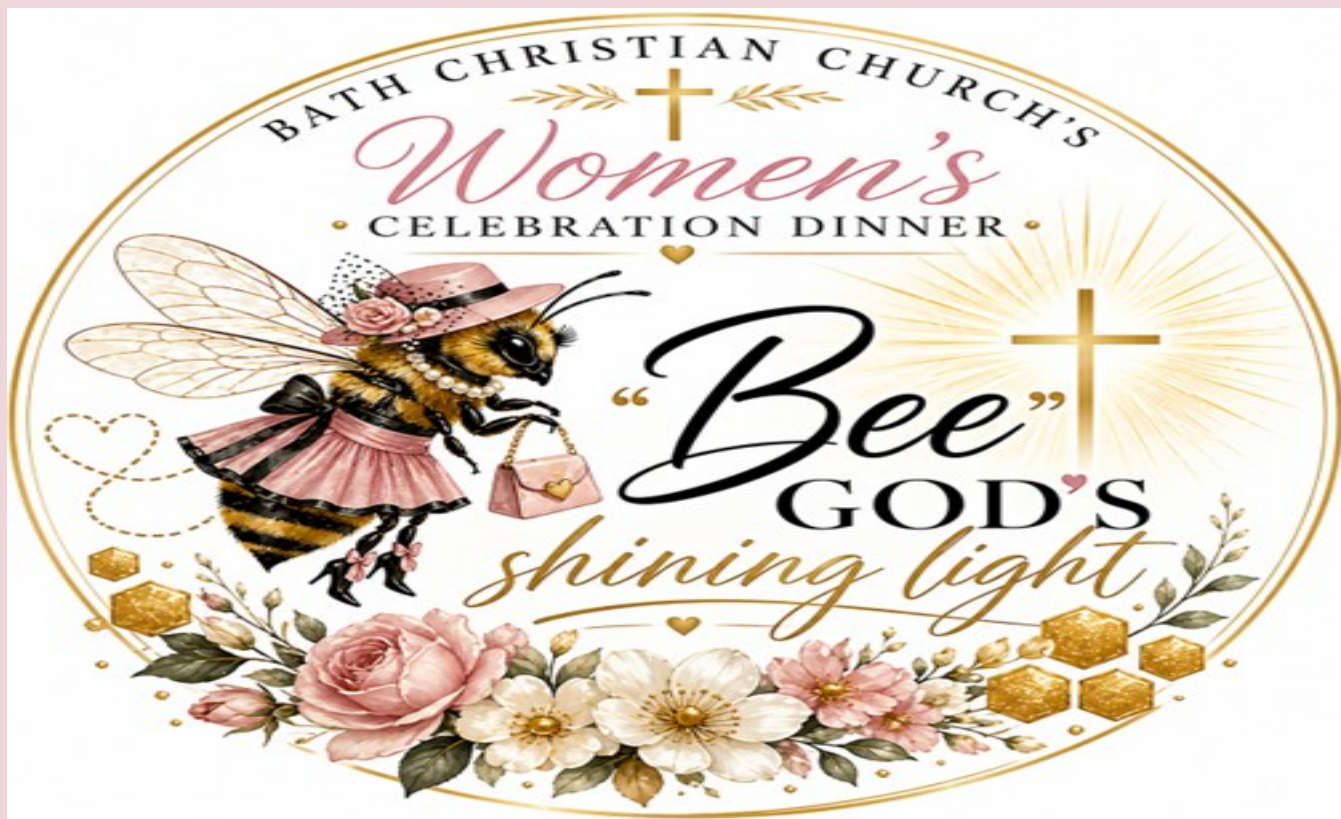
Assistance – The Elders will be helping out with Howard's duties while he is filling the pulpit.

Graduation – Plans for graduation Sunday are beginning.

Futsal Table – It was decided that the futsal table in the annex needs a new home.

The closing prayer was given by Louis Gurganus.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Alligood



May 20th, Wednesday 6:00PM

An evening of great food served by CMF, Fellowship, Entertainment, & Spiritual Nourishment. All ladies of the church are invited to attend & bring a guest (s).

Forms are in the pew racks with the Hymnals & in the Vestibules.

Place the forms in the baskets at each church door no later than Sunday, May 17!



"BEE" There!



GRADUATION



SUNDAY



June 7, 2026

Eight Grade, High School, College & Marshals will be recognized.

Please fill out the forms which are available in the church office for family members you wish to honor.

Forms go to Nancy Hill or contact the church office 252 923-4140 by May 17

Please include the full given name of high school graduates for the imprinting of their Bibles.

(Please do not assume a graduate's name will be included, we depend on the information you give us.)

**We joyfully celebrate and honor our 2026 Graduates!
Your church family is proud of your hard work and accomplishments. May God guide your steps and bless your future.**

Please Pray for Our Church

May 1, 2026

Church Family Prayer Concerns:

Michael Alligood, Jamie Barnhill (Shoulder Surgery May 11) Dana Brooks, Pearson Chrismon, Trevor Crawford's Daughter, Peggy Davis, Eunice Robbins, Betty Schmitt & **unspoken requests.**

Friends & Family Prayer Concerns

Cookie @ the Grill Dempsey Ange

Sharon Askew

Dean Baker

Nelda Bennett

Jean Bisette

George B. Bowen

Brandi Cooke-Robbins

Michael Cutler

Maverick Granger

Gary Jackson

Frankie Kelly

Donnell McLawhorn Linda

Minnick

Melissa Moore

Philip Price

Lynn Roper

Paige Stafford

Baby Roderick Selby

Kathy Siemon

Kristen Skalak

Mike Slade

Jane Stokes

US Military & Government

& Unspoken Requests

The Families of:

Battle Family, Phyllis Burroughs, Ruby Colville, Billy Hodges, Julia Jackson, Matthew Moore, Donna Sikes, Lois B. Tetterton, Donnie Smith, Kenny Ray Webb, Wanela Williams

Military:

Chase Brooks, Will Cutler, Hunter Williams

In Nursing Homes:

John Everett, Bobbie Jean Hobgood

Ridgewood Nursing Home

1624 Highland Dr.

Washington, NC 27889

-Glenda Boyd Room 312 Sandra Dupree Sister-in-law

-Nelda Bennett Room 104 Connie Winstead Sister

-Nelda Ormond Room 202

Brookdale Nursing

Carolyn Fisher

Rm 30

Greenville, NC 27834

Sunrise of Cary

Carol Richardson

1206 W. Chatham Street, Room 105,

Cary, NC 27513

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Q F J H P N V Y M K R A M T Y J J Q B I M E D E
 B J O A R R O M A N S A T H K U R Z D P B U T Z
 A E N I O D E M D S B Q T O H D K S K W T M N E
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 K L A D P E T E R T I T U S O U L E N S I N Z Y
 X H T T G O M I C A H S U C I T I V E L I Q P A
 G A L A T I A N S T N U M B E R S R W K J D O F

Amos	Chronicles	Colossians	Corinthians	Daniel
Deuteronomy	Ecclesiastes	Esther	Exodus	Ezekiel
Ezera	Galatians	Genesis	Habakkuk	Haggai
Hebrew	Hosa	Isaiah	James	Jeremiah
Job	Joel	John	Jonah	Joshua
Juda	Judges	Kings	Lamentations	Leviticus
Luke	Malachi	Mark	Matthew	Micah
Nahum	Nehemiah	Numbers	Obadiah	Peter Titus
Philiemon	Philippians	Proverbs	Psalms	Revelations
Romans	Ruth	Samuel	Song of Solomon	Thessalonians
Timothy	Zechariah	Zephaniah		