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PASTOR NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021: *A Time to Abide in Faith, Hope and Especially Love*

For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:12-13)



As I sit to write these notes for September, my heart is burdened by the weight of the news of the bomb attacks at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan. At this writing, we are aware that many people have been hurt or have died - including several American Marines. The situation is dire and spiraling more and more out of control every day. Fingers of blame are being pointed left and right. War and injustice and divisions everywhere tear away at the already fragile fabric of the human family. There seems to be no end in sight to the nightmare. World peace seems to be a pipe dream.

We were already fragile in the throws of the COVID pandemic, with its ebbs and flows of infection and progression. Some ask: Should these masks stay on or should they go? How do we know for sure if vaccinations are working or safe? How serious is the Delta variant? Should we be asking all of this with some modicum of skepticism, or should we just look to the filled hospital beds in over 75% of ICU units across the nation and the healthcare staff working tirelessly in them?

Add to these concerns earthquakes and hurricanes which have rattled the already devastated country of Haiti, fires in our Western states and floods along our coast and other places where nature and human violence wreaks havoc on creation, it is safe and sorrowful to say that the burdens of the world are heavy right now. Perhaps heavier than they have ever been. If you are like me (a.k.a. a human being) - you may wonder sometimes: *What does God have in mind in such a time as this?*

Closer to home, in August our church lost two cherished long-term members in just two weeks' time: Howard Cathall and Bill Smith. We all stand with their families in their mourning and offer prayers for their comfort. In such a time as this, some also begin to feel the pain of wondering what God has in store for our church as we are losing our connections to the generations. These losses come hard and are felt deeply in our hearts.

In such times as these, where do we turn for solace? For comfort? For hope?

Well, if you're like me (a.k.a. an imperfect follower of Jesus) **hopefully you turn to prayer and to the scriptures.** And while in prayer, burdened by the news of the day, lamenting, and wondering what God could possibly have in mind in all of this, the words of Paul from First Corinthians (see above) came to me and spoke into my spirit.

The truth is, we can't always see what God has in mind. Rather, we see through life's mirror dimly - not always able to make out exactly God's will for us. We will know it - perfectly, plainly, one day on earth as it is in heaven. For now, though - we have the faith, hope and love of Jesus Christ in which we are called to **abide**.

"Abide" is a beautiful, powerful word. It means "live," but more, it means "have life." Life happens where we abide, root down, spend time and hold on. And so, Paul says **we must abide - at all times: in our faith in Jesus Christ**, spending time with Him in prayer and worship;

in our hope in Jesus Christ, holding on even in the darkest days, trusting in Christ to show us the way and give us vision for better days;

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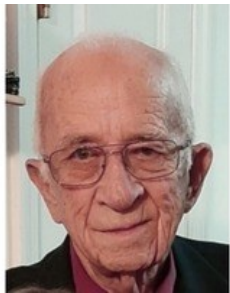
and finally, in our love - for God and God's love for us. We must have faith and hope and trust that through all of life's trials, God's love never dwindles but remains strong for us.

To be clear, Paul speaks here of a special kind of love. It is *agape* love - the highest form of love. Agape is God's unfathomable love for us. It is a love that, at most times, may seem impossible for us to achieve ourselves. But in Jesus Christ - we have seen what it takes to make agape happen: Sacrifice, obedience, a focus on others above self, a willingness to set aside man-made boundaries of separation and to welcome all. It's hard, but Agape love is possible - as are all things - with God. It is also important to note that *agape* love is communal love - it's the love of the church community birthed into existence to exemplify the saving power of Jesus Christ - power that is rooted in God's love which abides in us.

Friends, in times like these - indeed, in every time throughout history, this is what God has in mind: For God's children to remain faithful, to hold onto our hope in Christ and to accept and share God's agape love for us. Today, let us pray for the nation of Afghanistan, it's people and our troops there; for Haiti and for relief to come; for our country, our rescue workers and our leaders to help us through every fire and storm; for an end to the COVID pandemic and for all the suffering of the world.

Let us pray for the Church - ours here at Buckingham Presbyterian and the Church universal. In our prayers, let us ask not only for the strength to abide but also for the chance to lift the heavy burdens of others. And when given the chance, let's do it with faith, hope and especially love.

Peace, Pastor Mark

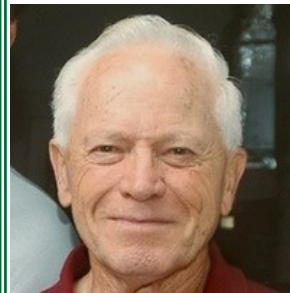


Howard Elton Cathell, Jr., age 94, passed away on August 11, 2021 at his home. Born in Berlin, he was the son of the late Howard Elton Cathell, Sr. and Hester (Richardson) Cathell. He was preceded in death by his wife Hallie (Collins)

Cathell in 2018, son Jerry Collins Cathell, brother Arthur Cathell, and sister Lena Cathell. He is survived by his two sons, Dale A. Cathell and Philip H. Cathell. There are three grandsons, James P. Cathell, Philip G. Cathell, and Brian Cathell, two granddaughters, Jessica Cathell, and Christina Cathell, and two great-granddaughters, Mackenzie and Brooke Cathell, and one great-grandson Philip J. Cathell.

Mr. Cathell had been a farmer and poultry grower, as well as a Federal Poultry Inspector until retiring in 1986. A lifetime member of Buckingham Presbyterian Church, he had served over the years as a deacon, an elder, and a trustee. He was also a member of Evergreen Masonic Lodge # 153, AF & AM, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1972, and was treasurer for 20 years. He had also been Worthy Patron of Holly Chapter # 45 Order of Eastern Star in Berlin.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, August 17th in Buckingham Cemetery in Berlin. Rev. Mark Piedmonte officiated. A donation in his memory may be made to Buckingham Cemetery, C/o Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811.



William Donald Smith, age 92, died on Sunday August 22, 2021 at his home. Born in Berlin, he was the son of the late Mack and Elsie (Rodney) Smith. He was preceded by his wife Carole Cropper Smith in 2020, his son Roger W. Smith in 1985, and sister Norma Young.

Surviving are his daughters, Deborah Frene and her husband Steve of Berlin, Diane S. Brissey and partner J.R. Lanz of Berlin, and Jennifer S. Amrhein and her husband Jack of Abingdon, MD. There are eight grandchildren, Jason Parker, Lindsay Ashton, Lauren and Sarah Brissey, Rachel Burdeshaw, Matthew Brissey, and Eric and Laura Amrhein. Also surviving is a sister, Betty Bush and her husband Lewis.

Mr. Smith was a graduate of Buckingham High School, and attended Goldy Beacom College. He was owner/operator of Smith Real Estate and Insurance Company. A pillar of the community, he was a member, deacon and trustee of Buckingham Presbyterian Church, member of the Fraternal Order of Redmen, Berlin Lions Club, Berlin Revitalization Committee, President of the Purnell Foundation, instrumental in building the baseball fields for the Berlin Little League, and active in acquiring the Taylor House Museum.

A graveside service was private for the family Evergreen Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Rev. Mark Piedmonte officiated. A donation in his memory may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21804, or Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 South Main St., Berlin, MD 21811.

September Mission—Clothing for Nurse Angie's Closet at Buckingham Elementary



9/2— RONALD Hall
 9/7— HOLLY Bunting
 9/10—CHARLES Herpen
 SUSAN Todd
 9/13—KAYE Gubosh
 9/17—STEVE Davis
 9/18—JESSICA Bunting
 9/20—GLORIA Gubosh
 9/21—EVAN Cook
 Anne Hastings
 9/23—Mack Ashton
 9/25—ARLINE Curtis
 9/26—TRACEY Trask

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9/6— JERRY & MICHELLE Woroniecki
 9/7— Timothy & EMILY Vocke
 9/22—Jeremy & VICTORIA Harsh
 9/27—ETHAN & Anne Cook
 PAUL & DEBI Cook

Sunday, September 5th
 World Communion
 Sunday, October 3rd
 Sunday, November 7th
 Sunday, December 5th



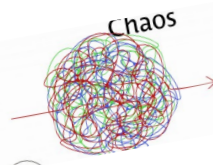
GROUPS TO GROW YOUR FAITH—

We have so many ways to join in and grow your faith!!

⇒ Join in for an **Adult Bible Study** on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30.

⇒ Our **High School group** meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 -6:30 with dinner, lesson, and games. They always welcome help with food or leading this group in their devotional for the evening!

⇒ Our **CHAOS (Christians Hanging Around on Sundays) Crew** (Grades 3rd—6th) meets twice a month on Sunday afternoons from 4-



5:30. Check the calendar and schedule for dates and to see activities! Once a month will be a hands-on team building group devotional and the other will be a full family (church family included) fun afternoon! Everyone is welcome to join.

⇒ **S'more Time with Jesus** is a church and community outreach night on 2nd and 4th Fridays.

♦ September 5th (Sun. 4pm) **CHAOS Devotional Night**—Aiming at the kind of character we want to develop; 3rd—6th Bean Bag Bucket

♦ September 10th (Friday 6-8pm) **S'More Time with Jesus**

♦ September 19th Family Day Afternoon at Trimper's Rides

♦ September 24th (Friday 6-8pm) **S'More Time with Jesus**

♦ October 3rd (Sunday) Family Pumpkin Patch trip

♦ October 17th (Sun. 4pm) **CHAOS Devotional Night**—Being dishonest and compromising instead of doing what we know to be right—Pumpkin Carving and Barfing Buckets/Pumpkins

♦ October 24th (Sun. 4pm) **Adult Night** (All welcome) Adult pumpkin painting/carving contest with dinner (kids serve)



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray



These charming articles from the late 1890's give us a glimpse into the fund-raising pursuits of past years. The Ladies Missionary Society of BPC sponsored a "Povertie Partie." Funds were raised by charging an admission fee and imposing a fine on those wearing "extravagances in dress." Sounds like fun!

Democratic Messenger Berlin News

8 June 1895 / p 3

A Birthday Social will be given in the Chapel of **Buckingham Presbyterian Church**, Berlin, by the Ladies Home Missionary Society on May 20th from 8 to 10 P. M. Each guest will be expected to drop an amount equivalent in pennies to the number of his or her years of age into a bag presented at the door. The amount need be known to no one but the donor. Cake and lemonade will be served and music and children's fancy drills furnished by way of entertainment. All are cordially invited. Come and we will try to insure you a pleasant evening. The proceeds of the social will be used to provide more brilliant lights for the church.



To raise money for new church lighting the ladies sponsored a "Birthday Social." Each person was asked to contribute pennies equal to their age; unanimously of course! Cake and lemonade were served.

Democratic Messenger / 9 May 1896 / p 3



The ladies held a fair and festival in a Main Street location to help pay for new carpet at the church. The items offered for sale probably included needlework by the ladies and possibly a white elephant sale.

It's worth noting that these events took place before the great Berlin fire of 1904 when BPC burned to the ground. The two previous articles speak of events taking place in the *Chapel* at church. Perhaps it was unable to accommodate the fair event.

Democratic Messenger / 12 Dec 1896 / p 3

A "Povertie Partie" is expected to be held by the Ladies Missionary Society of **Buckingham Presbyterian Church**, in the chapel adjoining the church, on Tuesday evening, June 11th, from 7 to 10 o'clock. 15 cents will be charged for admission, for which each visitor will receive a ticket entitling him or her to ice cream and cake. Fines of from 1 to 5 cents will be imposed for extravagances in dress, which will be specified in notices put up in town and also sent to the private houses. It is hoped that an evening of pleasure and profit will be the result of the Partie.

The Ladies Missionary Society in connection with the Girl's Industrial School of **Buckingham Presbyterian Church**, expect to hold a fair and festival on the evenings of the 15th and 16th of December in the room occupied by Mr. Henry Anderson over the stores of Mr. Joseph Boston and Miss Lizzie Tilghman. Many useful and beautiful articles will be offered for sale, and chicken salad, bread, coffee, ice cream and cake served at popular prices. The proceeds are to be devoted to the purchase of a new carpet for the church. All are cordially invited.

Mr. Edward Furbush spent a few days this week in the cities on business.

Mr. Edward Holland has opened a barber shop in one of Mr. Bell's stores next door to Miss Addie Bell. We welcome him to our little town.



2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"[T]hat old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air ... Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer." — Wallace Stegner, Angle of Repose</p>			1 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm HS 5:30-6:30pm	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	3 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon	4
5 Communion Sunday CHAOS Devotional Night, 3rd-6th—Bean Bag Bucket	6  Church Office Closed	7 Session Mtg. 6pm	8 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm HS 5:30-6:30pm	9 Bible Study 6pm	10 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon S'more Time w/Jesus 6-8pm	11
12	13	14 Men's Breakfast @ Rayne's Reef 8:30am Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm	15 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm HS 5:30-6:30pm	16 Bible Study 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Deadline to order Dinner	17 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon	18 Drive up or Delivery Dinner 4-5:30pm Chicken Parm w/Pasta, Veggies, & Dessert
19 Family Day Afternoon at Trimper's Rides	20	21	22 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm HS 5:30-6:30pm	23 Bible Study 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	24 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon S'more Time w/Jesus 6-8pm	25
26	27	28	29 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm HS 5:30-6:30pm	30 Bible Study 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<p>"Remember to be your brother's keeper in September" — Ernest Agyemang Yeboah</p>	

BUCKINGHAM GRAM

VISION STATEMENT

*We are a community of disciples,
Who honor all people,
Care for those in need,
Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.*