

**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



3323 Transou Rd.  
PO Box 130

Pfafftown NC 27040

Phone: 336- 924-9925:Fax: 336- 924-2501

E-mail: [office@pfafftownchristian.org](mailto:office@pfafftownchristian.org)

[www.pfafftownchristian.org](http://www.pfafftownchristian.org)

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Permit #2

**Church Staff**

***The Rev. Gerald Thomas***  
Pastor

***The Rev. Tim Shoaf***  
Minister of Music & Programs

***Traci Canter***, Office Administrator



During this season, if you should have a need (such as someone to pick up medications or food and drop them at your door) or would simply like to talk during this time, do not hesitate to contact one of the persons listed below.

Gerald Thomas: 336 504-8206  
Traci Canter: 336 407-1277

Timothy Shoaf: 336 692-5214  
Elders: See your Yearbook



Volume 4 Number 2

August 2020

# THE VISITOR



With yet another postponement of opening the church for Sunday worship, the Board has decided to also postpone the usual budgeting process.

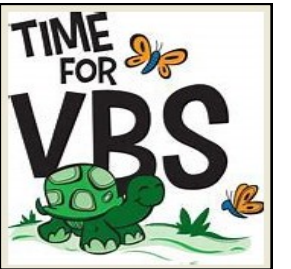
Therefore, we will proceed from now through the end of the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021) by:

- 1) Reducing expenses, when it makes sense to do so, to levels below those budgeted for this past year.
- 2) Asking everyone to meet or exceed their giving for the past fiscal year during the current fiscal year.

If we can achieve these two objectives, we believe we can end the year next June with a minimum deficit. However, we will keep a close eye on our bottom line and make adjustments when/if necessary.

If you need to know how much you gave to the General Fund last fiscal year, call either Traci or Bill Simpson. ~ *Bill*

I wish our kids could all be gathered together for Vacation Bible School this summer, but due to the pandemic and to ensure everyone is as safe as possible, I have designed a



Three-Day VBS Program that your kids can do-at-home whenever it fits your schedule. The themes for each session will be:  
*Day One: Moses: The Parting of the Red Sea*  
*Day Two: The Story of David and Goliath*  
*Day Three: The Lord's Prayer*  
I have assembled a "Supply Bag" for each child that will include Bible lessons, an online video, creative activity pages, and pre-packaged crafts to compliment each daily theme. It will include an Instruction Guide and materials so parents can teach the lessons and assist your child with the activities and crafts. This would also be a wonderful event to involve the entire family! Beginning on Monday morning, August 3, the supply bags will be available for pick-up at the church during office hours, or we can deliver them to if you wish. To register your child or for more information, please call or text me at 336-692-5214. I am very excited about offering this alternative VBS for the kids of our church and community. Let's have a great time together, learn about God, and grow as a family! Blessings, *Tim*

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Again this year, our church will sponsor the students and faculty at our local Old Richmond Elementary with school supplies. This is one of the most needed outreach programs that our church sponsors and the need is even greater this year due to the number of these families affected by financial stress, etc. caused by the pandemic. We are also aware that many teachers pay for their own classroom supplies (Kleenex, sanitizer, etc.).

Beginning on Monday, August 3, through Monday August 17, please join us as we donate towards this important ministry. This year, you will need to bring your school items to the church during office hours (MWF 9am-1pm). Gift cards are also a great idea! If you would like to make a monetary donation by check, please mail it to the church office with memo: "Back-to-School Supplies" and Jackie Romanello will be glad to purchase the school supplies for you. This congregation has always been very supportive of this outreach ministry of our church and your generosity is greatly appreciated as we help others in our community. May God be with the students and teachers as they begin another school year. ~ *Tim*

As Way Leads On To Way

"We're all travelers in this world. From the sweet grass to the packing house. Birth 'til death. We travel between the eternities."  
- Robert Duvall as Prentice Ritter in Broken Trail.

Every now and again, because I spend time in the Bible and because I am a pastor and especially because times get hard, people ask me, “Do you think we are living in the end times?”

I know they’re talking about the end of the world, so I smile, pastorally, and tell them the truth, as near as I can stand to it. “No.”

Now they look at me like I’m blind, deaf, and ignorant to the world around us.

I could tell them what I know they want to hear. But it would be a lie, and the Bible tells us telling a lie is one of the ten biggies we don’t want to get comfortable breaking. Believe me, it’s easier to tell folks what they want to hear. Like when they test me, “This earth isn’t my home. Don’t you agree, pastor?” I think about the ten biggies and I tell them what I feel when I dig my ten toes into the dirt: “Well, it feels like home to me. After all, God created it and put me right here. Anyway, for me home is always where Marlene is.”

Some folks laugh, because they think I’m telling a joke. But it’s supper time, so I go find Marlene and we are at home.

I’ve spent a lot of time around death. I’ve lived long enough now to know *everything* has a birthing and *everything* has an ending. Yet, I don’t make a hobby of endings. Unless you’re talking about better times. In these COVID-19 days, better times cause me to stare way out at the horizon. Like John the Revelator, who wasn’t concerned with the end of the world but catching a pretty intense vision of better times coming into his own hard times as he squeezed his ten toes into the sand on a Patmos beach.

There has never not been a time when folks asked, “Do you think we’re living in the end times?” Martin Gilbert wrote a three volume work on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, devoting a chapter to each year. The final paragraphs of each chapter are devoted to the worst of the worst things that happened all over the world. Every year, these things caused folks to muse, “We must be living in the end times.” Then a new year would start and they got hungry so they went back to work and making love and raising families.

Garrison Keillor shares such a moment of history in his *Writer’s Almanac*:

It was on this day 145 years ago, in 1875, that the largest recorded swarm of locusts in American history descended upon the Great Plains. It was a swarm about 1,800 miles long and 110 miles wide, from Canada down to Texas.

Swarms would occur once every seven to 12 years, emerging from river valleys in the Rockies and sweeping east across the country. The size of the swarms tended to grow when there was less rain — and the West had been going through a drought since 1873. Farmers just east of the Rockies began to see a cloud approaching from the west. It was glinting around the edges where the locust wings caught the light of the sun.

People said the locusts descended like a driving snow in winter. They covered everything in their path. They sounded like thunder or a train and blanketed the ground, nearly a foot deep. Trees bent over with the weight of them. They ate nearly every living piece of vegetation in their path. They ate harnesses off horses and the bark of trees, curtains, clothing that was hung out on laundry lines. They chewed on the handles of farm tools and fence posts and railings. Some farmers tried to scare away the locusts by running into the swarm, and they had their clothes eaten right off their bodies.

Similar swarms occurred in the following years. The farmers became desperate. But by the mid-1880s, the rains had returned, and the swarms died down. Within a few decades, the Rocky Mountain locusts were believed to be extinct.<sup>1</sup>

Tough times. Enough to make farmers say, “It’s the end of times!” But when they kept on breathing and getting hungry and finally felt a little cold at night, missing them clothes the locusts ate away, they got dressed and started plowing more rows.

I don’t mean to make light of these things. After all, finding an ending can be just as holy as making a life. So sacred, we can get lost in “end times” and miss the beautiful, terrible life that is just as holy as any ending.

Perhaps the end is not near. Perhaps we must be at home and live long, believing somewhere between the sweet grass and the packing house, better days are a coming. Prentice Ritter, John the Revelator, Marlene and I: we are all with you, clinging toe-deep to the dirt until them better days arrive... - GT

1. *The Writer’s Almanac*, July 19, 2020.

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 YouTube Worship	3	4	5 Mid-week Devotional (phone Tree)	6	7	8
9 YouTube Worship	10	11	12 Mid-week Devotional (phone Tree)	13	14	15
16 YouTube Worship	17	18	19 Mid-week Devotional (phone Tree)	20	21	22
23 YouTube Worship	24	25	26 Mid-week Devotional (phone Tree)	27	28	29
30 YouTube Worship	31					

Happy Birthday!

August 12  
Katherine Lee Hunt

August 13  
Genevieve Sinclair

August 14  
Ed Snuffer

August 20  
Allen Maine

August 25  
Sarah Ingram

August 27  
Connie Edwards

August 30  
Paul Shropshire  
Sue Terry

Wedding Anniversary wishes

August 12  
Craig & Elaine Bracken

August 13  
Skip & Jo Stanley

August 22  
Betty Barker

August 26  
Allen & Carol Maine



PCC Broadens Mission Outreach:  
Church Board Approves Support  
for New Communion Mobile Food Pantry

The Reverend David Harrison, Executive Director of New Communion, came by our church last winter and explained the good work of this organization. Since then, some of you have been asking and I am happy to report official support was given at the July 19 Board Meeting. We will support this ministry monthly and do so as households. Support involves making financial contributions of \$100 per month. Thus far, I’ve signed up a different household for the months of August, September, October and November. If you would like to take on a month as a household (or in cooperation with other households), simply call me and I’ll put you down for a future month. You should make your check out to Pfafftown Christian and write “New Communion” on the “for” line. ~ GT



New Communion Food Truck Sponsors for August -  
Dan & Sharon Binkley

Notes from Tim

One of the great hymns of the church is, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Of the many hymns we sing in church, this is probably one of my most favorite. The chorus says, “Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed thy hand hath provided - Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!” It is taken from Lamentations 3:23, and it has been in my thoughts for the last few months. It is both a declaration and a reminder to me that each day God continues to be faithful to me and you despite our circumstances and God is still faithful to us and to His promises. He continues to show His faithfulness no matter what is going on presently in our lives and the world.

The composer of the text, Thomas Obadiah Chisolm (1866-1960) had a difficult early adult life. His health was so fragile that there were periods of time when he was confined to bed, unable to work. Between bouts of illness he would have to push himself to put in extra hours at various jobs in order to make ends meet. After coming to Christ at age 27, Thomas found great comfort in the Scriptures, and in the fact that God was faithful to be his strength in time of illness and weakness, and to provide his needs. While away from home on a missions trip, Thomas often wrote to one of his good friends, William Runyan, a relatively unknown musician. Several poems were exchanged in these letters. Runyan found one of Chisolm’s poems so moving that he decided to compose a musical score to accompany the lyrics, *Great is Thy Faithfulness* was published in 1923. It was not until 1945 when George Beverly Shea began to sing *Great is Thy Faithfulness* at the Billy Graham evangelistic crusades, that the hymn was heard around the world.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

You and I can have joy during uncertain times because joy is not dependent on our circumstances. Joy comes


from a heart that trusts God and it produces praise no matter what things look like. Because God cares for us more than the birds of the air and the flowers in the field, we do not have to worry (Matthew 6:25-30). We can let our praises shape our cares into prayers (Philippians 4:6). Praising God during times like these remind us of His faithfulness and keep our eyes on Him. Each day gives Him the opportunity to provide for us, to show us His mercy and to prove His faithfulness. If we take time to look for those mercies and His faithfulness, we will see them. He will provide all you need even during a crisis because His faithfulness endures forever. God be with you. *Tim*

(Some information taken from “Hymn Stories of Faith” -Louis Hansen)



**Pfafftown Shirts Available**

PCC is offering shirts with our church’s logo for \$40.00. We recently did an experiment with a cupola-inspired logo and it was well received by the congregation. (Some are proudly wearing these shirts out in our community today!) They are available in both men’s and women’s sizes, either black or navy. Prices are just a tiny bit more if you need a tall size. Next orders will be placed in mid-August. If you would like a shirt, contact Dan Binkley at 336-287-8878. If you don’t get an answer, please leave a call back number.



**Protein Drinks Available**

Pam Backi has two boxes (40 cans) of Suplena Therapeutic Nutrition shakes (homemade vanilla) she would like to give away. Suplena is especially good for persons with kidney issues. If you can use these, please contact Pam at 336-416-8155.



*This Little Light  
of Mine,  
I'm Gonna  
Let it Shine.*



**August Memory Verse**

**Matthew 5:16:**  
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

5:08 PM  
07/23/20  
Accrual Basis

**Pfafftown Christian Church**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2019 through May 2020

	Jul '19 - May 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Projected W/D from CIF	0.00	0.00	0.00
Change for Church	253.17		
Carryover from Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions Income	136,496.09	163,331.00	-26,834.91
Loose Offering	735.00	1,320.00	-585.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	917.00	-917.00
Building Rental	226.00	458.00	-232.00
Investment Earnings	5,342.61	6,618.00	-1,275.39
R G Flynt Endowment	2,252.58	2,823.00	-570.42
Yard Sale	3,050.00	4,767.00	-1,717.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	148,355.45	180,234.00	-31,878.55
Expense			
Administrative Expense	128,386.51	135,045.00	-6,658.49
Christian Eduation	618.28	1,283.00	-664.72
Building and Capital Improv Fd	0.00	1,833.00	-1,833.00
Evangelism	0.00	92.00	-92.00
Membership	300.00	367.00	-67.00
Fellowship	324.10	917.00	-592.90
Childcare	0.00	183.00	-183.00
Property	29,383.09	35,246.00	-5,862.91
Worship	2,601.42	3,025.00	-423.58
Total Expense	161,613.40	177,991.00	-16,377.60
Revenue over Expenses	-13,257.95	2,243.00	-15,500.95

We received \$17,445 from the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) on June 3rd. This loan was approved by the board at the May meeting.

With this loan, we should be able to cover the budget deficit which is anticipated to be (\$17,000) at the end of June.

When the proceeds are used to cover payroll costs, the loan will be forgiven.





Condolences for the father of Pam Backi may be sent to: 4667 Fairway Run, Pfafftown, NC 27040



Our church will be collecting cooking oil this month for Crisis Control Ministry (CCM). Please place your donations in the donation box and/or contact the church office should you have a donation you wish to be picked up. Also, donation may be made to CCM by writing a check to Crisis Control and mailing to the church. You may designate to three areas where you wish for your donation to go: 1) Food Pantry, 2) Pharmacy, or 3) COVID-19 relief. Thank you for your giving and loving hearts. ~ Jackie

**Crisis Control Center Thanks You**  
Thank you to those who continue to support our community's needs by bringing food items and financial contributions to support the Crisis Control Center. Every form of outreach makes a difference for those living day to day. If you have cans of food you would like to contribute and do not wish to venture out, please contact the church office and we will pick these up off your porch.

**Church directory update**

**Please Call the Church Office And Update Your Yearbook Information**

Now is the time to check your Yearbook's directory (name, address, contact information) and up date this as needed. Everyone in charge of a ministry/program of our church is asked to update your information in the Yearbook. Please call or come by the office with this information by August 20. ~ GT.

### PCC Investigates Helping Local Students with Wi-Fi Access



Our church is working with local schools to provide space to students who are distance learning but do not have access to Wi-Fi. The Board has authorized this investigation to see if there is a need and how our facilities and/or resources may help. Watch this space for an update...

**PCC YouTube Services Hit the Road**

First Baptist Church of Fitzgerald, Georgia recently called to ask permission to make our music and sermons available to their congregation as a form of mid-week encouragement to their congregation. (We told them it was okay, but if they make any money off of them, we'd expect our cut.) In these difficult times, it is good to know that new things can create happy opportunities for people outside of our church. For this, we give thanks.... ~ GT

**Serving Your Church in 2020-2021**

If you are interested in serving on the Church Board, being an Elder or Deacon, please leave your name with Traci Canter, Office Administrator. If you have never considered serving in one of these roles, we encourage you to give some thought to helping. Thank you. ~ PCC Board

**Love. Grow. Serve.**

**Thank You for Serving Again in 2020-2021**  
To maintain stability in these teetering times, persons who served as Elders, Deacons, and on the Board are being asked to maintain those same positions throughout the 2020-2021 church year. Your church appreciates your commitment that will hold us steady in these unprecedented (there's that word again) times. I look forward to serving with you in this year. ~ GT

### "We have ears....to listen while we eat!"



Thank you to everyone who came out to harvest corn this year. We have contributed over 1,200 pounds of corn to local food banks (and a bit to happy meals in the homes of our fellow parishioners and neighbors.) We look forward to our next spring, when the ground will be turned and COVID-19 will be a memory. Rest up! We'll be planting before you know it! ~ GT

**CWF News**

CWF met on Tuesday, July 21 at the picnic shelter with 8 ladies in attendance. We discussed fall plans to have a Frozen Food and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 14 with pre-orders and curbside pick-up. Chicken Pie Workshops will be postponed until we can come together as a large group. More information will follow. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. For the devotion, we discussed the poem "Trees" written by Joyce Kilmer in 1913.

**TREES**  
by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

Thank you, CWF, for being the hands and feet of Jesus. CWF has recently given monetary donations to Christmount, Crisis Control, Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries and Newborns In Need. **THANK YOU!**



**Brighton Gardens:** Edna Williamson  
**Rose Tara:** Vallie Cline  
**Willowbrook Rehabilitation:** Bud Barker  
**Church Family:** Pat & Frank Barber, Christine Faircloth, John Grice, Jodi Saunders, Bill Simpson, Garland & Sue Terry, Julie Tilley, Tommy Timmons, Richard Yarbrough  
**Others:**  
Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groffs' friend  
Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend  
John Davis: Ken and Vicki Davis' friend  
Tommy Disher: Traci Canter's Uncle  
Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel's granddaughter  
Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher's aunt  
Jan Everton: Jo Stanley's sister  
June Fulton: Jill Robertson's friend  
Elaine Grice: John Grice's sister  
Betty Haddock: Sharon Binkley's mother  
Cayden Kingsbury: Rodney Stilwell's grandson  
Chuck Kolstad: Evelyn Nifong's son-in-law  
Sharon Linscott: Gerald & Marlene's friend  
Ramon Mandry: Pat Millsap's family  
Scott McDaniel Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher's friends  
Sue Miles: Jo Stanley's friend  
Plemmons Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher's friend  
Pam Reynolds: Traci Canter's friend  
Daniel and Lewis Shields (infants): Jill Robertson's friends

Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher's sister  
Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson's niece  
Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson's sister  
Wiley & Claudette Thomas: (Gerald's family)  
Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin  
Brandon Whitley: friend of the Fletcher family  
**Loved Ones in the Military:**  
Joshua Hughes, Norfolk, VA.; Chase Lee, Guam; USS Key West; Major Hope Poster, NG, Texas; Cpt. John G. Van Hoy IV, Fort Campbell, KY

- ◆ North Spray Christian Church in Eden, NC caught fire early Saturday morning, July 11. Fire, smoke and water damage impacted several areas in their church buildings. Please remember our sister church family in your thoughts and prayers.
- ◆ Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries