



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE BALTIMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IN THE TOWN OF EAST BEND, NC



Volume 2 Issue 5

JANUARY 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*The Good News from Baltimore UMC*

JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS  
*Page 2*

DONATE TO SOLUS  
CHRISTUS BY  
SHOPPING AT  
AMAZON.COM  
*Page 2*

2020 SECRET SISTER  
BIG REVEAL  
*Page 3*

EAST BEND  
ELEMENTARY  
NEEDS OUR HELP  
*Page 4*

JANUARY  
USHERS  
*Page 4*

CARD CAMPAIGN  
FOR SHUT-INS  
*Page 4*

NEW ADDRESS FOR  
ZOLA SPEER  
*Page 4*

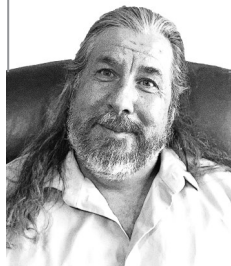
WNCC RESOURCE  
CENTER  
*Page 5*

"TABLE TALK"  
IS BACK  
*Page 5*

SECRET SISTER  
SIGN-UPS FOR 2021  
*Page 6*

FOLLOWING JESUS  
*Page 6*

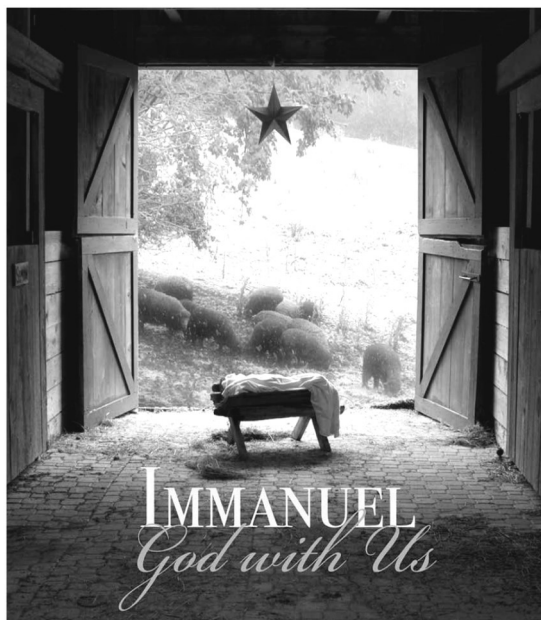
## From the Desk of Pastor Chad Shoaf



### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF IMMANUEL!

Wow, I can not believe that we are once again drawing one year to a close in the birth of another new one. This one, though, is probably being anticipated more so than any we have before with all that has happened. 2020 brought life as we have known it to a screeching halt. Like the Israelites, we have found ourselves wandering through a wilderness and wish to return to what we knew before. We want life to return to what was standard before 2020. But what does that say regarding what Christmas has proclaimed?

In Christmas, God proclaims that what is normal is not working. In Christ, God joins human history in the flesh to overthrow normal for what was intended. In Christ, God is reconciling us to himself by inviting us to participate in the love found in the relationship of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A love that honors the other and cares for the other - A love that seeks the other's benefit before that of self.



While we yearn to return to a normal life, may we continue the work of Christmas in each of our lives. May we seek to step fully into the new God is creating around us, knowing that what he is leading us towards is better than what we cling to from before. May we participate in God's restoration work where his will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May we step boldly into what God is doing!

Shalom, My Friends!  
Pastor Chad



## Who's Who at BUMC

### Pastor

Pastor Chad Shoaf

### Administrative Council Chair

Brian Logan

### Treasurer

Kelly Speer

### SPPRC Chair

Avalon Doub

### Parsonage Chair

Mason Doub

### Nurture

Michelle Doub

### Outreach

LeAnn Doub

### Witness

LeAnn Doub

### Lay Leader

Evelyn Hiatt

### Lay Delegate

Deborah Wyatt

### Sunday School Representative

Cindy McMurray

### Nominations Chair

Pastor Chad

### Trustees Chair

Bill Griffin

### Finance Committee Chair

Ernie Hiatt

### Finance Secretary

Shirley Doub

### Member Secretary

Debbie Griffin

### Council Secretary

Deborah Wyatt

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Hannah Bruce	1/6	Kala Doub	1/20
Jacob St. John	1/7	Sharon Gentry	1/22
Mike "Tater" Lawson	1/9	Jenny Jenkins	1/27
Ricky Griffin	1/10	Beth Doub	1/30
Miranda L Connor	1/11		

Welcome to  
**amazon smile**

You shop. Amazon gives.



**DONATE MONEY JUST BY SHOPPING!**

Did you know that every purchase you make from Amazon can generate revenue to be given to an organization of your own choosing? How do you set up an Amazon Smile organization?

1. Visit **smile.amazon.com**. 2. Choose an organization from the menu on the right. You can select from spotlight organizations or search for an organization by name or location. 3. Click "Select and Start Shopping.". Remember: every time you want to shop at Amazon, shop at **smile.amazon.com**! If you shop at Amazon.com, your purchases will not count toward a donation to your organization.

How about designating a local organization like **SOLUS CHRISTUS** to receive your funds? Every purchase you make from **smile.amazon.com** will generate a donation, equal to .5% of your total purchases, to SOLUS CHRISTUS!

What a great way to support worthy organizations in our community! **JUST BY SHOPPING!!!!**

# THE BIG REVEAL

## WHO WERE ALL THE SECRET *sisters* FOR 2020?



2020 was a tough year that was made so much better by having a Secret Heart Sister! It's always such a wonderful blessing to participate in this program. At the end of every year, all the Secret Sisters gather together for the Big Reveal tea. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our annual celebration. **If you want to participate in 2021, SEE PAGE 6.** Below is the 2020 Big Reveal:

Cindy McMurray's	heart sister was	Jody Logan
Debbi Wyatt's	heart sister was	LeAnn Doub
Debbie Speers'	heart sister was	Denise Mosteller
Tracy Doss'	heart sister was	Debbie Speer
Betty Wyatt's	heart sister was	Brianna Doub
LeAnn Doub's	heart sister was	Susie Johnson
Evelyn Hiatt's	heart sister was	Dawn Edworthy
Michelle Doub's	heart sister was	Velma Williams
Susie Johnson's	heart sister was	Ann Matthews
Shirley Doub's	heart sister was	Tracy Doss
Melissa Bruce's	heart sister was	Anna Doub
Ann Matthews's	heart sister was	Evelyn Hiatt
Peggy Phillips'	heart sister was	Karen Ellis
Debbie Griffin's (Bill's wife)	heart sister was	Marie Hinson
Carolyn Smitherman's	heart sister was	Shirley Doub
Dawn Edworthy's	heart sister was	Melissa Bruce
Jody Logan's	heart sister was	Natalie Doub
Velma Williams'	heart sister was	Debbie Griffin (Bill's wife)
Anna Doub's	heart sister was	Cindy McMurray
Natalie Doub's	heart sister was	Betty Wyatt
Brianna Doub's	heart sister was	Carolyn Smitherman
Denise Mosteller's	heart sister was	Michelle Doub
Karen Ellis'	heart sister was	Debbi Wyatt
Marie Hinson's	heart sister was	Peggy Phillips
Holly Logan's	heart sister was	Cindy McMurray
Stephanie Hiatt's	heart sister was	Holly Logan
Sharon Gentry's	heart sister was	Stephanie Hiatt

### January Lectionary Readings



#### 2nd Sunday after Christmas

*January 3, 2021*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

#### Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

*January 10, 2021*  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

#### 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

*January 17, 2021*  
1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

#### 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

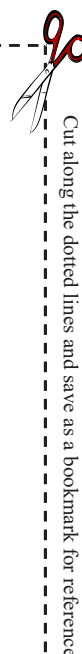
*January 24, 2021*  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

#### 4th Sunday after Epiphany

*January 31, 2021*  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

#### Epiphany/Baptism Sunday

This year the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated together. Epiphany is about seeing Christ, about the manifestation of Messiah in the person of Jesus. Certainly, the proclamation made at his baptism, the tearing open of the heavens, and the descending of the Spirit like a dove can be that revelatory experience. A baptism remembrance could also provide the opportunity to remind the congregation that they are now the visible evidence of the presence of Christ in the world. When we claim the new life that we embrace at our baptism, we live the light that we proclaim. We are the witness to the activity of the Lord in the midst of the present-day reality..







## **EAST BEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*is looking for*  
**DONATIONS**  
*of the following items:*

**Healthy Snacks**  
**Bottles of Water**  
**Child-sized Masks**

For the month of January, the Outreach/Nurture Committee will be collecting individual snacks, bottled water, and face masks for the students at East Bend Elementary school. We would like to open this project up to all of the church. We will have a box at the table as you enter the fellowship hall to place donated items in.

Help make a child's school day more fun and productive!



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR ALL YOUR HELP**



Do not cast me away when I am old;  
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

*Psalm 71:9*



**January Ushers:**

Darrell Doub &  
Avalon Doub

### **DON'T FORGET OUR SHUT-INS!**

THEY WOULD LOVE LETTERS AND CARDS!



Two things are true about COVID-19: It has forced most people into indoor isolation, and it is disproportionately lethal for elderly folks and people with pre-existing, adverse health conditions. This means some people may be struggling a lot more with social distancing than younger and healthier folks.

Assisted living communities, senior citizen facilities, hospitals, and people with compromised immune systems have had to go on lockdown for the their safety, which is better for

their physical health, but has left a lot of people feeling more alone in a stressful time.

Dropping a card or letter in the mail is a great way to cheer up the older or sick people in our community. Pretty cards can be hung on the refrigerator or placed on an end table as a visual reminder of your affection, and letters can be read and re-read when your friend or family member needs a little pick-me-up.

Send the names & addresses of anyone you think would enjoy

getting cards and letters from members of our church family! They'll be printed in next month's newsletter.

You can email these to:

[DeborahWyatt@protonmail.com](mailto:DeborahWyatt@protonmail.com)

or hand them to me when you see me in church!

**LET'S GET STARTED!**

**Please send a card or note to:**

**Zola Speer**  
**Vienna Village B41**  
**6601 Yadkinville Rd**  
**Pfafftown NC 27040**



Looking for some Christian inspiration for yourself or materials for a Bible Studies group, Sunday School Class or VBS?

## Western North Carolina Conference Resource Center

SUPPORTING MINISTRY AND DISCIPLESHIP

**Mission Statement:** *To provide a deep well of engaging, relevant books and media supporting the mission of the local church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

The WNCC Resource Center is a free lending library for all United Methodist churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. Resource Center staff are available to assist you with selecting the appropriate resources for your needs. We have 6,000+ resources—books, DVDs, worship aids, Vacation Bible School starter kits, two 24-foot canvas labyrinths, and a variety of curriculum for all ages and stages of life.

Our materials are managed by Surpass Support, a system often used in public schools and libraries. The [online catalog](#) is open to all for browsing, either by keyword, author, or title.

Additionally, be sure to “like” our [Facebook page](#) to stay abreast of seasonal recommendations and new additions to the library!

This ministry is free for all churches in the conference, but you must have an account to make reservations straight from the catalog or app. **To open an account**, please call or email us at 704-535-2260 or [resourcecenter@wnccumc.org](mailto:resourcecenter@wnccumc.org) with the following information:

- First and Last Name
- Mailing Address (where resources will be shipped)
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Local Church Affiliation

---

For more information, visit: <https://www.wnccumc.org/resourcecenter>

# IT'S BACK!



**Looking to engage with others, in an informal setting, seeking to deepen your faith in and understanding of the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity?**

Join us! Every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, Table Talk meets in the Fellowship Hall for presentations and discussions on a variety of topics. For people who can't make it to the Church, we offer a ZOOM option so anyone can participate from home.

For more information, contact the Table Talk leaders:  
Michelle Doub or Amanda Pardue.



## Secret Heart Sister Sign-Up for 2021

The Secret Sister program will be starting up for 2021! Participating means you will belong to a group that cares and prays for you throughout the year! Periodically, you will send/get little notes, cards, and special gifts to remind you/be reminded that you are being prayed for and remembered thoughtfully.

### FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN 2021:

1. **Fill out the form** below (you can print this out or there are forms by the box on the bench in the hallway) and **leave it in the 2021 Secret Heart Sister Box** at the church on the bench going into the fellowship hall



2. Send the info to Sharon Gentry at:  
[ssgentry@aol.com](mailto:ssgentry@aol.com)

3. Call Sharon Gentry with the info at:  
336-945-4432 or 336-406-5875

Name:	
Address:	
Birthday:	
Special anniversaries:	
A few of my favorite things (flowers, hobbies, scents, colors, collectibles, ...):	
Favorite Bible verse(s):	
People I am praying for (family friends, life situations, ...):	
Is there anything else you want to share?	

**Deadline for this is Sunday January 10, 2021**

## Should we talk more about “Following Jesus?”

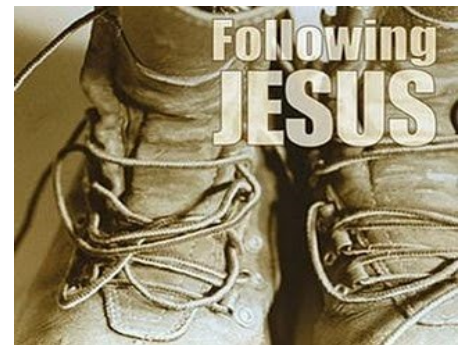
Interview with John Piper  
Founder & Teacher, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

Today we field a question from a listener named Mark who lives in Midlothian, Virginia. Mark writes, “Pastor John, my question is, Why does Paul refuse to use the phrase ‘follow Jesus’ when speaking about saving faith or in his imperatives to the church? Jesus spoke this way a lot.

“In Matthew 4:19, he said to his disciples, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Jesus’s command to ‘follow’ seems significant in all four Gospels. In Matthew 8:22 he says,

‘Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.’ In Mark 10:21 he says, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ In Luke 9:23 he says, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’ And in John 10:27 he says, ‘My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.’

“Key texts - all of them. The Greek



word for follow (akoloutheō) appears 89 times in the New Testament, but only once in Paul (1 Corinthians 10:4). Basically, Paul avoids the language of ‘following Jesus.’ Why? And was this terminology more appropriate for those who could literally follow Christ during his ministry on earth?”

*Continued on page 7*



I think that last sentence — namely, that while Jesus was here in his bodily presence, the words “follow me” had a very distinct and particular meaning with reference to Jesus’s actual movements, physical movements and behavior, on the ground — is very, very significant. When he said to the fishermen, “Follow me,” they left their nets and walked behind him (Matthew 4:18–22). When he said to Levi, “Follow me,” he left his money table and he walked behind him (Luke 5:27–28). The words “follow me” were used not only because what he taught was what they should do, but also because he was an itinerant preacher who would show them in his deeds, as they walked around with him, how to live and how to minister.

So, I think Mark puts his finger on the issue with that last sentence — that the words “follow me” had a special physical meaning in the presence of Jesus’s physical body when he was here.

But let’s make a few other observations that I think take us deeper into why none of the apostles made a practice of describing Christians as followers of Jesus, which is what a lot of people are doing today. And I would just wave a little yellow flag that it might not be a good idea to make a dominant practice today out of something that is almost nonexistent among the apostles in the New Testament. After the resurrection, none of them called Christians “followers of Jesus.”

So, here are a few observations:

### 1. The Christian life begins with death.

In John 13:36–38, Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, ‘Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.’ Peter said to him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’” And Jesus, in essence, said, “No, you can’t, and you won’t.”

So, what did Jesus mean when he said, “You cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward”? Well, he meant, first of all, that “I’m about to die on the cross, and you’re not ready to follow me there. You’re going to deny me tonight three times.” He says that in the next verse.

But what did he mean when he said, “Later you will follow me” — as if to say, “Later you’ll have the courage to die with me”? Well interestingly, in John 21:18–19, after the resurrection of Jesus, he says to Peter, “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were

young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God [namely, to be crucified like Jesus].) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Which I think is the answer to the question of what Jesus meant back in chapter 13 when he said, “Afterward you will follow me.” “Right now, I’m going to die. You’re not ready. You’re going to deny me tonight. Afterward you will follow me into death.”

So, on the one hand, Jesus declares, “We have come to a point in my life here, now, where you can’t follow me anymore, not in the ordinary sense. I’m going to die and leave. But if you want to think in those terms, the way to think is that you will follow me into death: you will die with me.” And Paul was indeed willing to think that way in Romans 8:17, when he spoke of suffering with Jesus in this life and dying with Christ. The Christian life begins by dying with Jesus, Paul said.

### 2. Jesus Christ dwells in his people.

Here’s the second observation: With the departure of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the dominant way of thinking about the relationship between Jesus and his people is not that we walk around behind him, but that he dwells *in them*, and they *in him*, and they enjoy union with him. Union with Christ by the Spirit replaces the relation to Christ by physical following. Jesus said in John 14:16–17, I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Now, I think that’s an indirect way of saying that Jesus is *with them* now, and they can follow around behind him. And later, by his Spirit, he will be *in them*.

### 3. We look back to Jesus’s earthly ministry.

Third observation: With Jesus’s departure into heaven, his earthly life is conceived of as an example that we look back on to follow, rather than looking at the front of us as something to be followed. We imitate by looking backward at Jesus. For example, take 1 Peter 2:21–22: “Christ . . . suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He com-

mitted no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.”

There has been a clear, historical reversal of the way we orient to Jesus. He’s not physically out there in front of us, walking for us to follow. His life and teaching are fixed in history as an event and a pattern in the past that we now look back on, and in that sense, we can follow an example. But the word has a very different meaning, when we use it that way, than the way it was used by Jesus.

### 4. We follow Jesus by adhering to the Scriptures.

Fourth observation: Jesus intended that his early followers, the apostles in particular, would complete the writing of a body of teaching that would be more complete than everything he said and did during his lifetime because it would include a full interpretation, by his authoritative spokesmen, of his death and resurrection and the way the church should live in the light of it.

That body of teaching, the New Testament, is now a fuller witness to be followed than the life and teachings of Jesus considered by themselves. Jesus himself would consider it a retrograde action, going backward in redemptive history, to isolate the earthly life and teachings of Jesus for our following. Instead, the totality of the New Testament, informed by the Old, is the charter for the church’s life. It is what we follow, and in doing so, in that sense, we follow Jesus, since he’s behind it.

### 5. Christ is our new identity.

The last observation I would make is that the more profound summons of the New Testament is not that Jesus is a teacher to be followed, but that he is a living, personal identity to be put on, like a garment or a new self. Romans 13:14: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” Ephesians 4:24: “Put on the new self.” Christ is our new identity. So, the new identity of discipleship is something far more profound than the impression you get with the words “follow Jesus.” I think the apostles considered those words inadequate to capture the mystery of “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” as Paul calls it in Colossians 1:27.

*John Piper (@JohnPiper) is founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books, including Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist and most recently Providence.*



# CONTACT INFORMATION



Phone

Office Phone: 336-961-6055  
Church Phone: 336-250-2801  
Home Phone: 336-699-2697



Mail

Baltimore United Methodist Church  
2419 Baltimore Rd  
East Bend NC 27018



Internet

Church Website:  
<http://www.baltimoreumc.com>  
Church e-mail:  
[cshoaf@wnccumc.net](mailto:cshoaf@wnccumc.net)

## Want to Get Involved at BUMC?

At BUMC, we encourage everyone to get involved. There are many ways to join in:



Provide Flowers for a Sunday Service  
Join the United Methodist Women  
Volunteer as a Nursery Attendant  
Join the United Methodist Men  
Join the Table Talk Group  
Become an usher  
Join the Choir



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

*Baltimore UMC East Bend*

## Office Hours

The Church Office is open Mondays from noon to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would like to add birthdays and anniversaries to our monthly calendar.

## BUMC Phone Tree

Get your phone number added to our phone tree list to get the latest announcements.

## Schedule of Services

Baltimore United Methodist Church worship services start at 9 a.m. every Sunday. Worship is followed by Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Baltimore United Methodist Church  
2419 Baltimore Rd  
East Bend NC 27018



Or Current Resident