

The Scroll

July 2020 Vol. 182 No. 7



Bishopville Presbyterian Church

215 S. Main Street (physical) / PO Box 66 (mailing)
Bishopville, SC 29010-0066

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Phone: 803-484-5441

Due to the COVID-19 virus all Worship Services will be shortened and begin @ 10:00 am, with no other gatherings, including Nursery, Fellowship, & Choir, until further notice



Don't forget to like us
on Facebook to
receive our news feed

Email us to receive enews: bishopvillepc@gmail.com
Printed materials available, upon request, through office

The Session will meet, as needed, to approve appropriate & safe decisions regarding Church services & gatherings.

All updated info will be posted on our website & our Facebook page, as it becomes available

*July Elders-On-Call:
Cindy Welsh & Charlie Ipock*



**NO Sunday School
NO Fellowship & Coffee
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.**

Business Office Hours
9:00 am - 6:00 pm (Monday - Wednesday)
Unless otherwise noted

Key Officers and Staff
Clerk: Charlie Ipock / Gregg McCutchen, Asst.
Treasurer: Jerry Adams / Billy Clyburn, Asst.
Office Manager: Gwen Hayden Steinmeyer
Pastor: Rev. Christopher Parnell

From the Pastor's Desk... We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers & sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)

1 & 2 Thessalonians are some of the Apostle Paul's first letters to the churches. In Acts 17, when he plants the church there, Paul teaches them that Jesus had "to suffer and to rise from the dead" in order to complete God's plan of redemption. During Paul's time there, some of the believers in the Thessalonian church—most notably a man named Jason - were attacked, dragged to court, and, for lack of better word, robbed (the authorities said he was paying "for security" - sounds like a shakedown to me). From its very beginning, the Thessalonian church knew about suffering for the sake of Jesus' Gospel, both from the Scriptures and from their own experience.

As American Christians who lived through the latter half of the 20th Century and the first part of the 21st, we are blessed. We have a nation that gave us unprecedented religious, financial, political, & personal freedom. We even worked, during my lifetime, to share that freedom with people all over the world - often whether they wanted it or not. We heard Ronald Reagan shout, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" We heard Lee Greenwood sing, "I'm proud to be an American." We heard Neil Armstrong tell us, "This is one small step for man, and one giant leap for mankind." We lived through, heard, saw, experienced an age like no other. Another great American, Mr. Al Stokes, my once-upon-a-time teacher, called our age this: "*Pax Americana*." Things are, without a doubt, changing. Technology threatens to outpace the protections that have long upheld our freedom. The generations that have followed ours grew up post 9/11, during the uncertainty of a potential age of terror. The sense of liberty that seemed to flourish everywhere in the 1990s now seems to have both stagnated and drawn back, particularly in Western societies. Freer trade seemed only to result in closed factories, lost jobs, increasing urbanization, and a cultural shift towards a tech economy and a service - both of which have been shown to exist on "bubbles" (*think about the dotcom crash of the late 1990s, the housing crash of the late 2000s, and the service industry crash we're living through as a result of Covid-19*). From the Patriot Act to the Google monopoly, from the rise of "doxing" & "Twitter mobs" to the Occupy movement, from unilateral action to drone strikes, from online censorship to church vandalization, our nation has changed - and Mr. Stokes' *Pax Americana* seems to have crashed down atop us.

The world was already anti-Christian, anti-Church, anti-homeschool, anti-, well, us. And now, that anti-Church sentiment - from atheists who demand prayer be taken out of schools to politicians and lobbyists who demand churches be stripped of protections to lawyers and lawmakers and judges who work to make those things happen - that anti-Church sentiment is here. Our own nation is becoming increasingly hostile to our faith. We seem to be irrevocably moving into a new age of Christian persecution, one which, once upon a time, people laughed about, chuckled and said, "Oh you - you're just a slippery-slope talking alarmist." Increasingly few commentators laugh now. As my Uncle Allen might say, that slope's done been slipped. So how can I smile every Sunday when I get up in front of my church family? Because - thanks to Mr. Stokes, I read history. Thanks to Dr. Fairbairn, I read church history. Thanks to Preachers Elrod, Barnett, Sanford, Phipps, Reynolds, Ross, Hering, and so many (I can't even remember them all) I read & had read and explained to me the history of my faith - the Bible. And thanks to God Almighty for the parents who prayed I would discover this, for the pastors who led me to this, for the professors and teachers who showed me this, for the fathers & mothers of the church who lived this truth - God Is Sovereign.

How can I smile, this month when we remember American independence and simultaneously the assault on that liberty? God Is Sovereign. How can I smile, this year when a man is going to be elected president who nearly ½ the nation fears will destroy our freedoms? God Is Sovereign. How can I smile, this decade when the Christian Church has been assaulted time & time again - in the USA! by HOAs who deny home churches parking, by zoning boards who refuse new churches permits, by city councils who look to prohibit & interfere with Christian businesses, by lawyers & judges who advocate & judicate anti-Christian policy, by PACs and other political bodies who celebrate what is abhorrent to God (such as the murder of millions of embryonic human beings every year) while denigrating God's church? God Is Sovereign.

This is what Job hears when, in the whirlwind of his life, God speaks to him - I Am Sovereign, God himself declares, and I Am in control. This is what Samson discovers when he meets his match in cleverness & wiliness - I Am Sovereign, God himself declares as He answers Samson's last prayer. This is what Stephen preaches as the stones pelt against him, when he sees the skies open and his Savior reaching out to welcome him home - I Am Sovereign, God himself declares as a saint makes it home through the fire. This is what John sees, alone, scarred, and exiled on Patmos, when the Risen Lord Jesus appears to him - I Am Sovereign, God himself declares, as He sets in motion the End from before the very Beginning. And this is what Paul writes to the Thessalonian church in their time of persecution: God is Sovereign. Sovereign means God rules over all - nothing is out of His control. So, Paul says, we grow in faith as we study, as we learn, as we embrace what God's sovereignty really means. We grow in faith, because God, who is Sovereign, wants us to know Him, His rule, His ability, His power, more fully. We grow in faith as we get deeper & deeper into the patterns of God's Sovereignty in history, in our church's history, in the Church's history, even in & through the history of the Church in & through persecution, trials, famine, plagues, in & through the rise and fall of nations, kingdoms & empires - and we begin to see how this God we serve is Sovereign in & through our own lives, too. Nothing is out of His control. God is Sovereign.

That God is Sovereign, Paul tells us, will increase our love. How can that be? Because the character of God is love. Because the activity of God is love. Because the nature of God is love. God is holy, He is just, He is righteous, He is light, He is merciful, and He is love. Jesus is the proof, the hope, the assurance of this sovereign love of the Sovereign God. We increase in love because God, who is Sovereign, gives us the ability, the capacity, the opportunity, and the desire to love each other like He loves. We increase in love as we study God's own Word, that unimaginably great gift of His Love, the Bible. The Bible is the history of God's relationship to us, with us, and for us - a relationship founded by His first loving us in His Sovereignty and Might.

God is Sovereign. He is over all, and so He will help us endure any & all suffering, Paul teaches us. "The times, they are a-changing", but our God is always the same. He's got this. He's got us. My prayer for us is that - no matter what we face, no matter how the world shakes us, no matter if this is the last truly free Independence Day we get to celebrate, or if there are dozens or hundreds more until our Lord Jesus returns - my prayer for us is that we understand and celebrate the reality that our God is Sovereign, Lord of All. From the Voice of the Martyrs' website, www.persecution.com: "According to church tradition, June 29 marks the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul. This year, Christians around the world will take time on June 29 and throughout that weekend to honor the legacy of those who have sacrificed their lives for the advancement of the gospel." Blessings, Pastor Chris

News from the Session...

The Session met on June 28th and decided to continue with the same Worship format for the month of July. Please continue to social distance as our SC positive cases rise. Anyone wishing to worship with us on Sunday's, we meet @ 10:00 a.m. Sanitizer & Masks are available for anyone needing them. Steven Frazier will fill the pulpit on July 5th in Chris' absence.

The Session will meet again on July 26th, after worship, to make a decision on August schedule.

We, the Session, are prayerfully trying our best to respond to the needs of the Church and ensure we have the safest environment possible for our members. Regardless, we welcome and ask that should you have any suggestions or alternative means by which to deliver the Good News we have about Jesus Christ, please let us know. Rev. Parnell has done an outstanding job of utilizing digital resources and I'm hopeful that we'll continue to do as best we can to communicate to our members and community through those resources. We'll continue to pray for all Church members, our leaders, and all affected by this pandemic. God is in our midst, and in that midst we see the grace that leads us to Him.

In Christ, Charlie Ipock
Clerk of Session

JULY ELDERS-ON-CALL
Cindy Welsh & Charlie Ipock
Called Meeting: July 26th

Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus)...
All Church events, except Worship have been cancelled, until further notice.
Worship Services are each Sunday @ 10:00 a.m., using social distancing. We will not have the choir participating and we will not have a Nursery or Fellowship time. Other events will be determined and posted on our website & Facebook page

June 2020 Statistics	
Worship Attendance average: 31	
<u>Budgeted Income & Expenses (operating)</u>	
MTD Income received:	\$11,250.55
YTD Income received:	\$95,493.27
Budgeted YTD Income Needed:	\$106,410.00
MTD Expenses disbursed:	\$20,225.98
YTD Expenses disbursed:	\$93,949.26
Budgeted YTD Expenses:	\$106,716.00
<u>Non-Budgeted Income & Expenses</u> (Memorial, Building, & Cemetery Funds)	
MTD Income received:	\$200.00
YTD Income received:	\$1,365.00
MTD Expenses disbursed:	\$2,200.00
YTD Expenses disbursed:	\$2,200.00

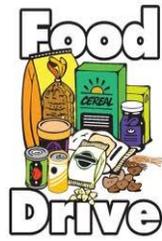
Congregational Meeting
Elder Election c/o 2023

Election Date: After 1 month of normal worship
2020 Elder Nomination Committee Members
Matt Bramlett & Cindy Welsh, Chairs
Dwayne Sweatman Kathryn Welch
Susan Cline Andrea McCutchen

If you wish to not serve, please contact a Committee member or the Church office

Our HOMEBOUND Members

Dot Cothran @ her home
Laura Latimer, The Blake, Elgin
Louis Shirley @ his home, under Hospice
Boochie Swearingen, Sunrise, Charlotte
Doris Bell, Memory Care @ Manor, Florence



Canned Food & Monetary gifts for the Lee County Cooperative Ministries (LCCM)
1st Sunday of each month
Please note "LCCM" on all LCCM monetary gifts
July designation: CEREALS

<u>July Sunday Sermons & Scriptures</u>		
	July 5th:	The Big Picture 2 Cor. 4:7-12, 16-18
	July 12th:	At the name of Jesus 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12
	July 19th:	Obtain the glory of Jesus 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
	July 26th:	So preach the Word of Jesus 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
Due to COVID-19, Worship will be @ 10 am, with no choir, fellowship or nursery		



**Presbyterian Women
RADA fundraiser
for Ministry & Missions**

You can order through our website or the link below to help support them year round
<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=1838016.df3fba>



Flower Calendar

JULY

5th: Virginia & Charlie Ipock
12th: Harriett Watson Family
19th: OPEN
26th: Jim Ed & MaBeth McCutchen

AUGUST

2nd: Bert Cousar
9th: Debbie & Bill Tindal
16th: Bill Welsh Family
23rd: OPEN
30th: OPEN

SEPTEMBER

6th: Retta & Hugh Tindal
13th: Judith & William Watrkins
20th: Jennifer McCutchen
27th: OPEN

Please contact Church Office if you would like to be changed, added, or removed from upcoming Flower Calendar. Calendar runs September - September



Church Business office hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Email & Postal mail, is checked and acted on, daily as applicable. All donations/tithes can be mailed to
**Bishopville PC
POB 66
Bishopville, SC 29010**

NOTE: All mail sent to our street address will be returned by Post Office
Upcoming Vacation/Holiday Office closings:

July 1st - 6th
August 19th
September 7th & 14th
October 12th
November 24th - 25th
December 22nd - 28th

Happy Birthday July August

Reese Atkinson	8	Bobby Thomas	1
Covington Ipock	8	Billy Clyburn	6
Frank Tindal	8	Leila Ethel McCutchen	7
Nick West	8	Edie Varn	8
Kim Easters	11	Mary Ellen Gaskins	9
Betsy Bramlett	12	Brittany A. Hyman	11
Gregg McCutchen IV	12	Steven Frazier	12
Robin Jeffords	13	Grayham Geddings	13
Avarie Easters	14	Matt Bramlett	15
Bob Latimer	14	Jennifer Bailey	22
Allen Corbett	15	Lydia Conway	22
Ashley Latimer	21	Diane McElveen	26
Andrea K. McCutchen	24	Sidney Easters	27
Libby Corbett	26	Victoria Ipock	28
Daphne Dickerson	26	Benji Harrington	30
William Watkins	31	Sara Abbett Kirven	30

Vacation Bible School

2020 was Bishopville PC's year to host Vacation Bible School, but due to COVID-19, we have decided to cancel this year, but we will host it next year, if applicable. If things become more safe, before the end of this year, we may try to have a Fall Fest. Keep checking bulletins and our website for more details

Thank You



for your kindness

Thank you BPC for the graduation Bible. I will use it to further my faith with God. Thanks, Brandt Boykin

Dear members of Church, Thank you for the personalized Bibles for our graduation! It will come in handy.
Much love, Brooke & Amber Harrington

The family of AZ Atkinson wishes to extend their gratitude for all the prayers, calls, texts, and concerns during this difficult time in their life

Celebrating our anniversary ...during a pandemic

June 2020

Carroll and Pam Baker
336 Brickling Road
Irmo, SC 29063
cbaker@fca.org

Support address:
P.O. Box 12657
Columbia, SC 29211

To give online:
<https://my.fca.org/carrollbaker>



On May 24, we celebrated our 34th Anniversary and although we couldn't take our usual weekend away to celebrate, we did manage to have a great day at home. It was fun to think back on what God has done in our lives and ministry over the years.

Did you know?

Carroll attended **Lee Academy** in Bishopville, SC while Pam went to **Lee High School** in Huntsville, Alabama. Plus, The **University of South Carolina** and **Jacksonville State University** are both called **Fighting Gamecocks!**

We met at Daytona Beach in June 1983. We worked together on the CRU summer beach project. At that time, Pam was serving at **Cal-State Fullerton** and I was transitioning from **Ohio State** to **Arkansas State University**. Our discipleship groups were paired together so we were assigned the same church. At Spring Break in 1985, we returned to Daytona for a week, and we spent time together again. That's when I began to think, "**Is she The One?**"

Our engagement night was December 18, 1985. When I sked her to "glorify the Lord with me," (Psalm 34:3) she replied, "**I'd love to!**"

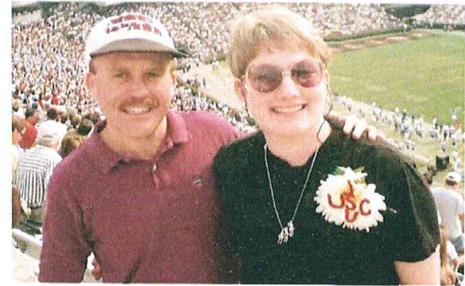
After our wedding, we spent a few days in Birmingham and Jekyll Island. Then back to Daytona Beach to staff the Summer Beach Project where we met just 3 years earlier. In August, Carroll joined Pam in ministry at **Clemson University**, Carroll's arch rival. **God's got a sense of humor!**

That's how it all began. Memory Lane... it's always a good trip!

One more surgery

Thanks for all your prayers for our family and ministry over the years. Please be praying for Pam on June 15 as she has one more surgery to repair her nose. She has done so well the past two months. Our plastic surgeon hopes that this is the final surgery, but he realizes there might be one more.

Your friendship is such a blessing!



Notice the Homecoming corsage...USC/JSU



10th Anniversary 1996 ... we didn't know it yet, but Pam was pregnant ...with twins!

Carroll + Pam