

Between Cattle and Congregation

It was a long time ago that I stepped out of the waters of my baptism. I don't remember the entire scene—which side of the creek held the cattle, and which held the congregation. But I do remember the time between being a new creation and being the same old sinner was briefer than I had hoped.

My twelve-year-old self was too young to appreciate the depth of meaning in the shallow waters that day. But I was old enough to recognize the fresh-and-clean feeling of forgiveness. And I noticed the moment didn't seem quite as transformational as I hoped. Everything old had passed away; but it didn't stay away.

Still, my pastor prayed with words that reminded me of Jesus. He called my name. He promised the Holy Spirit. And he said my baptism was the beginning of a journey, not the end of it.

The baptism was a decision to walk with Jesus, so that, as Paul wrote, "in him [I] might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Since my pastor was also my dad, we both knew that I had not yet achieved this. Still, we celebrated the decision to try.

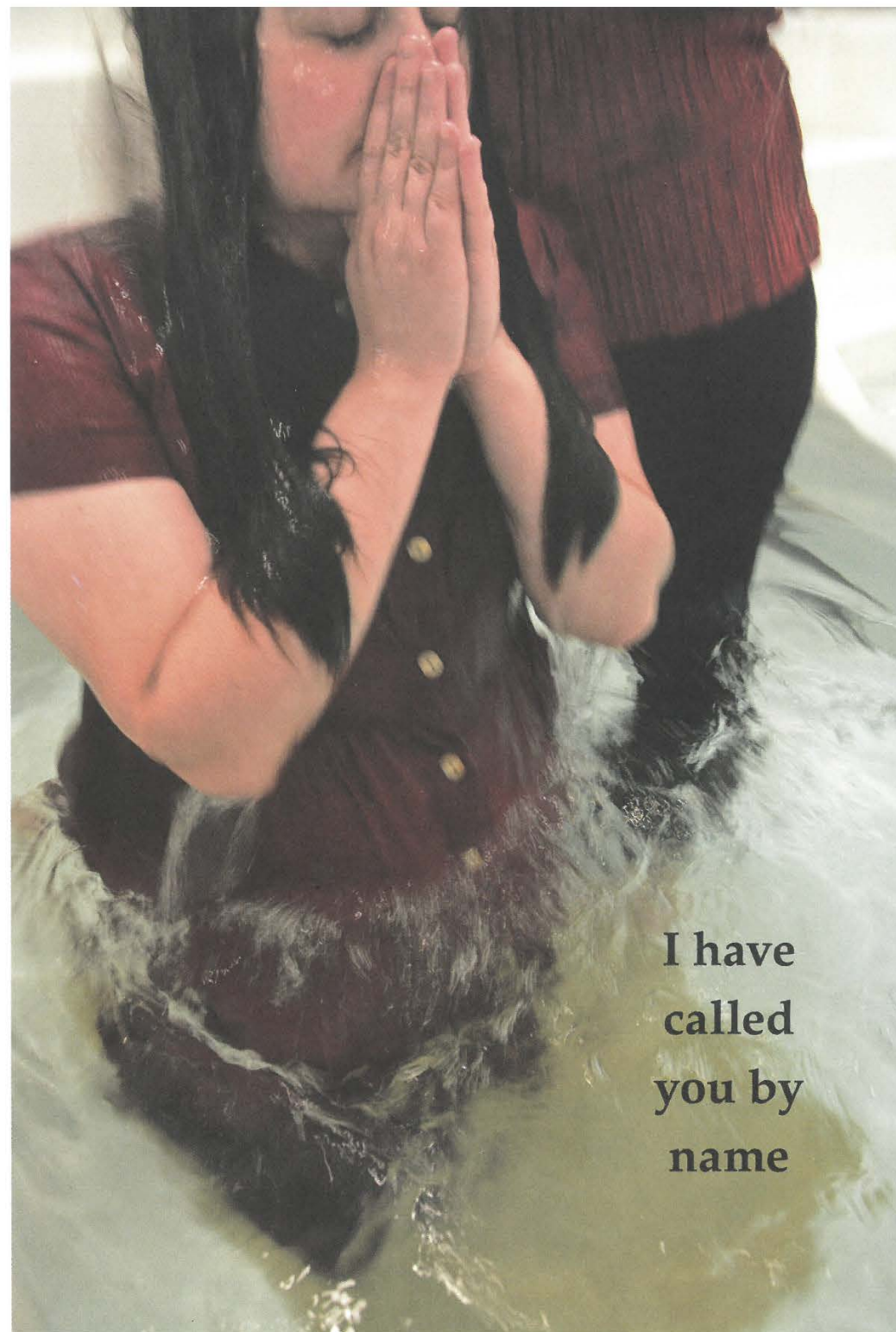
Some days it feels like I've made very little progress. It is as though I am just now staggering out of the creek between congregation and cattle. But then the Holy Spirit rummages around in my consciousness, and I remember the gift of reconciliation with God. And I become a carrier of that reconciliation to others. I find my bearings.

At my baptism, both the congregation and the cattle looked on with a peaceful content that reflected simple truths. We are not yet what we will be, nor are we what we once were. Still there we are, a new creation—fresh and clean and wet behind the ears. Praise God.

—Chris Bowman
Manassas, Virginia

Text for today: "But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; *I have called you by name*, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Isaiah 43:1-3a, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 43:1-7 (1); Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

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I have
called
you by
name

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship January 13, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Q: What is the most frequent command in the Bible?

A: "Do not be afraid."

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) from The Brethren Hymnal (1951)
Hymns of the Changing Year

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

THE NORFOLK CHIME St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 29 *NRSV/The Message*

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders...over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

One: God's thunder tympanic, God's thunder symphonic.

All: God's thunder smashes cedars, God topples the northern cedars.

One: The mountain ranges skip like spring colts, the high ridges jump like wild kid goats.

All: God's thunder spits fire. God thunders, the wilderness quakes; He makes the desert of Kadesh shake.

One: God's thunder sets the oak trees dancing – A wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches.

All: We fall to our knees—we call out, "Glory!"

One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

***HYMN # 124** *O worship the Lord* BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Linetta Ballew
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Brethren Woods Doug Phillips

***HYMN # 220** *Worship the Lord in the beauty*
(vv. 1 & 3) WAS LEBET, WAS SCHWEBET

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

[Prelude in C] from L'Organiste *César Franck*

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 8:14-17 *NRSV*

ANTHEM (11:00) Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God *arr. Larson*
Mary Kay Adams, cello

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Linetta Ballew

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 43:1-7 *NRSV*
Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

***HYMN # 567** *How firm a foundation* FOUNDATION (BELLEVUE)

SERMON "When... With... For..." Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

***HYMN # 592** *Love divine, all loves excelling* BEECHER

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00) Postlude in G Major *John Barr*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 13-19, 2019 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Sun.	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	2:00	Youth Inquirers' Class	Youth Room
	6:00	Youth Sunday Night Live	Social Hall
Mon.	Noon	Retired Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Finance Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Staffing Task Team	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Panera Salads & Sandwiches, Chips, Cookies</i>	
		<i>Suggested Donation: \$10 adults / \$5 kids</i>	
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	Yorffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Thurs.	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	6:00	Brethren Student Movement – Youth Room / Social Hall	

NEXT SUNDAY—January 20, 2019—Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Whatever”

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Children's Worship during Worship at 11 – Agape Room

Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Lounge

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

Youth Inquirers' Class – 2 p.m. – Youth Room

PASTOR JEFF is off this weekend through Sunday. He will return to his regular work schedule on Monday, January 14.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Josh Eye – Interim Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Pianist (8:30) – Ann Daggett

Van Drivers – David Lineweaver & Rick Fawley

Worship Leader – Linetta Ballew

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *K. Getty & Stuart Townend*

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
Holy Spirit, come abide within; may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of
peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I
do.
Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your
ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with the Wednesday Night Meal this week (and most weeks). Especially needed this week: someone to set food out; someone to wash dishes and put them away. To volunteer, please contact the church office or visit the volunteer section of our church website. Thanks for helping!

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 1/6/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 22 11:00 – 235 Children's – 22

Sunday School: 144

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$26,704.87
Loose Offering	1,009.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	29.00
Tree Lights of Love	20.00
Denny Eye Memorial Fund	250.00

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/30/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 14 11:00 – 231 Sunday School: 112

Christmas Evening Worship Attendance: 7:00 – 237 11:00 - 37

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$10,035.00
Loose Offering	451.76
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	44.00
Christmas Offering	1,350.00
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Contributions – Refugee	5,000.00
Tree Lights of Love	15.00
Heifer International	330.00
Paul B. Foster Estate	9.91
Denny Eye Memorial Fund	150.00

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/23/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 26 11:00 – 245 Sunday School: 91

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$11,049.87
Loose Offering	858.00
Church User Fees	500.00
Food Pantry	175.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	29.00
Church World Service	50.00
Christmas Offering	3,035.00
Tree Lights of Love	120.00
Women's Fellowship	200.00
JOY Circle	53.00
Journey Bags	50.00
Denny Eye Memorial Fund	275.00